Epsom Guardian

January 28, 2016

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Epsom Guardian

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Tory councillor who sits on finance panel owes £1.7k council tax

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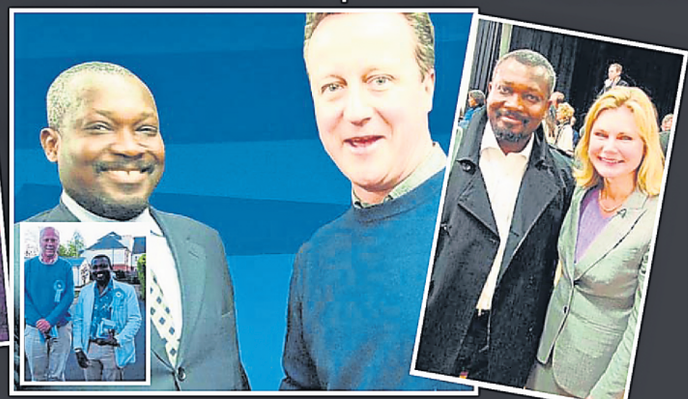
TAX BOMBSHELL

Tory councillor who sits on finance panel owes £1.7k council tax

Smoking: Omer Kokou-Tchri



True blue: With the Prime Minister and Justine Greening MP. INSET: With Chris Grayling

REPORTER
BEN WEICH
ben.weich@london.newsquest.co.uk

An Epsom and Ewell borough councillor owed almost £1,700 in council tax when he was elected last summer, the Epsom Guardian can reveal.

Omer Kokou-Tchri was sent a liability order for council tax arrears of £1,695.69 – granted by Redhill Magistrates' Court – on May 27, 2015.

On May 7 he was elected as a Conservative councillor to represent College ward on the borough council.

Coun Kokou-Tchri, who lost his house and his full-time job as a result of the situation, came forward after it was revealed he had excused himself from voting in council meetings in June and September.

Under Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, councillors with outstanding council tax payments are not allowed to vote on financial matters. Despite this, he sits on the council's financial policy panel.

Arrears of £1,695.69 amounts to about a year's worth of council tax for a mid-band property within the Epsom and Ewell borough.

Coun Kokou-Tchri claimed Epsom and Ewell Council had the right to claim tax against the value of his home, but after it was repossessed in May 2009 it stopped seeking payment – until he was elected last summer.

He said he has requested information on "numerous occasions", statements and data on his debt from the council – but he has been faced with a "wall of silence".

He said: "I am mindful of this unfortunate situation we have found ourselves in and this could happen to anyone.

"I am working hard so something like this never happens to anyone again in Epsom."

Although he has offered some of his allowance as a councillor to repay the debt, Coun Kokou-Tchri maintains he should not have to pay council tax arrears older than six years.

He said: "My household feels we do not have to pay more than six year old debt because the Epsom and Ewell Borough Council didn't bother to apply for the money they were themselves so determined to collect.

"My household and I couldn't comprehend why our concerns are still continuing without constructive and fair end so far.

"We are still being punished for having owned a house even though we have lost it already.

"Daring to own a house is not something wrong. Having an aspiration for your family is not something wrong, is it?"

Jonathan Isaby, chief executive of the TaxPayers' Alliance criticised Coun Kokou-Tchri, saying councillors are supposed to set good examples.

He said: "Ordinary taxpayers are entitled to ask why their elected representatives think they're above the law.

"If councillors are falling behind perhaps it's worth asking if the delays are because council tax is simply too high?"

An Epsom and Ewell Council spokesman said: "It's only right that all residents who use the services of the borough council, the police and the county council, including the fire service, contribute, when they are able to so, to the cost of those services.

"The council has a legal duty to collect council tax and will take all necessary actions to collect unpaid council tax, no matter who the individual, including using the full range of legal powers available."

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Unpaid bills lead to repossession of social club

PLAYGROUPS, church groups and youth projects in Leatherhead have been displaced after Mole Valley District Council repossessed a social club because of unpaid bills this month.

The council took back the lease on North Leatherhead Community Club in Kingston Road, Leatherhead on Sunday, January 17.

A Facebook group announced the news to its 489 friends.

North Leatherhead Community Association (NCLA) had managed the community centre since it opened – more than 30 years ago.

While the centre is closed Mole Valley District Council has set up agreements with other groups which use the centre, including St Giles Playgroup and Nursery, Leatherhead Youth Project and Churches Together in Leatherhead.

The NCLA posted on its Facebook page: "It is with great sadness that we have to inform our members that the club is now permanently closed.

"Unfortunately over the last eighteen months due to lack of use, we have been unable to pay our bills and the council have repossessed the building."

A friend of the Facebook group said: "There must be something we can do as a community. Lottery money? Local celebs? Chelsea FC?"

Ann O'Dell wrote: "That's a shame. All the hard work that's gone in there over the years and the work my old dad put into it when it first got up and running. Sad times but many happy memories."

A Facebook group – NLCC What happens next? – has been set up for people to post ideas for the centre's future.

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Appeal launched to help teenager finally eat again

Lauren Holding with mum Joanne (53971930)

A BANSTEAD teenager whose rare stomach condition means she can not eat or drink is fundraising for a £30,000 surgery which she hopes will allow her to enjoy Sunday roasts and friends' birthday parties.

Lauren Holding, from Croydon Lane, Banstead, had gastroparesis – a partial paralysis of the stomach – diagnosed last year after dozens of tests to find the cause of her severe abdominal pain and nausea.

Mum Joanne Holding set up a GoFundMe page in the hope of affording surgery to fit a gastric pacemaker, which will allow her to eat again, and has so far raised more than £2,000.

The family have been told surgery and aftercare will cost another £28,000. Although the application process for NHS funding is complex, if the family is successful they will donate all money raised to charity to fund further research into gastroparesis.

You can help Lauren out at www.gofundme.com/lauren-stummy.

Bereaved parents on a 'tortuous journey' as baby dies from undetected pneumonia

'It took too long to help my wife'

REPORTER
ELLIE CAMBRIDGE
ellie.cambridge@
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A FAMILY was subjected to a "tortuous journey" when their baby girl died from undetected pneumonia within a day of being born, a coroner heard.

Raluchukwu Olivia Okam died at Kingston Hospital after her mother, Chinwe, was summoned back to the hospital's maternity department in the early hours of February 28, 2015, following a series of increasingly worried phone calls.

Mrs Okam had been sent home the day before with a ruptured amniotic membrane, though she was not in labour.

Her husband, Christopher Okam, of Juniper Close, Chessington, told West London Coroner's Court: "Her situation developed and it was obvious to everyone that it wasn't going as normal or as smoothly as it should be."

The couple waited nearly an hour for her to be seen, even though Mrs Okam was vomiting in reception. It would emerge too late that she was carrying a group B streptococcus bacteria that infected her baby.

Hours later, having received no intravenous antibiotics or fluids following tests which showed baby Raluchukwu's heart rate to be "suspicious", and a blood test showing low oxygen levels, Mrs Okam had a caesarean section.

Though doctors tried to resuscitate her immediately after she was delivered, Raluchukwu died.

Obstetrician Andrew Pooley said there was a window of opportunity for administering IV antibiotics, but could not say if the outcome for Raluchukwu, who he said was a "tragically, profoundly ill" baby, would have been different if Mrs Okam had been given the drugs.

Midwife Patricia Guvi, since retired, said it was normal for a mother to be sent home following a ruptured membrane until the rupture became prolonged.

She said if it was known a pregnant woman carried the group B streptococcus bacteria, and her membrane ruptured, that woman would not be sent home.

Mr Okam added: "There were a lot of things that didn't go quite as well as they should have gone, and I still think of my daughter.

"This was a baby who was growing in her mother's womb who didn't have any problems."

Senior coroner Chinyere Inyama said the Okams had suffered a "tortuous journey".

He added: "She [Mrs Okam] returned on February 28, after prolonged rupture of her membranes.

"Cannulation was difficult and delayed intravenous antibiotics were not given. The deceased passed away very shortly after her birth."

Mr Okam, who was with his wife at the inquest, said: "It took too long for someone higher up, someone more professional to come to my wife's aid."

Mr Inyama told the family it would be very difficult to draw the line after losing a child but he hoped the inquest process helps them come to terms with what happened to their baby.

The inquest was held at West London Coroner's Court on Tuesday.

The coroner concluded that Raluchukwu died of natural causes.

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More than 90 sorries a day

SORRY may have been the hardest word for Elton John but South West Trains has managed to apologise to its customers an incredible 650 times in seven days.

The rail franchise's Twitter account is saying "sorry" to frustrated commuters more than 90 times a day.

Other buzz words from its social media account included "delay", which it said 260 times, "cancelled" 136 times and "due to" 130 times.

Fortunately for commuters, the franchise ends next year and Transport for London will take over the running of suburban services in London. And it would be fair to say that South West Trains customers do not always accept its apologies.

A South West Trains spokesman said: "The number of tweets on any day can go up or down depending on a variety of factors affecting the railway, including planned railway improvement work. Even where we have multiple contacts about one issue, we always try to provide an individual response and say sorry to those customers affected."

Car becomes stuck after three-vehicle crash

Three-vehicle crash outside the Ashley Centre in Epsom (53995896)

A THREE-CAR pile-up saw one small car wedged between a truck and a 4x4 outside the Ashley Centre's main entrance on Tuesday afternoon.

An Epsom and Ewell Borough Council spokesman said the Ford tipper truck – belonging to the council – looked to be stationary when a small white Volkswagen Polo shunted it at a pedestrian crossing in the High Street just after 2pm.

The drivers of the vehicles were said to have suffered shock, although no one was harmed.

The Range Rover is then said to have crashed into the back of the smaller car, wedging it between the two.

The council spokesman said: "The bonnet of the car went underneath the truck's flatbed, and was pushed down.

"The windscreen was also broken."

The vehicles were later cleared.

BUSINESS FEEDBACK: Epsom and Ewell Borough Council has launched a consultation process for businesses to comment on its spending plans before setting their budget next month. Feedback can be offered through the council website. The budget will be discussed at a full council meeting on Thursday, February 11.

WELFARE ADVICE: Surrey Disabled People's Partnership will be offering advice on welfare benefits at The Hub in High Street, Epsom today. The partnership offers fortnightly drop in sessions, and will be available between 10am and 12pm on Thursday, January 28. Advisors can also visit people in their own homes if getting to the Hubs would be difficult.

NEW YEAR: Chinese New Year is coming up on February 8 and to celebrate we've drawn up a list of 11 of the best Chinese restaurants in the region. We asked our followers on social media for feedback and we scoured TripAdvisor for some hot tips. Visit www.epsomguardian.co.uk for the results.

TOLWORTH DECISION: London mayor Boris Johnson is due to decide this afternoon whether to give the final green light to controversially approved plans for four new high-rise blocks next to Tolworth Tower. Mr Johnson will meet with his strategic planning team to review the proposal passed by Kingston Council's development committee on January 12. Building work began the next day.

Flowers, photos and scarf placed in memory of crash victims now gone

Appeal for missing tributes

REPORTER
CRAIG RICHARD
craig.richard@london.newsquest.co.uk

FRIENDS of a Banstead boy and his mother who died in a car crash have appealed for help after sentimental tributes to the pair have gone missing.

Nicola Morris, 29, and her son Kai Arnold, 11, died in a car crash in Banstead Road, Ewell, on July 5, 2014.

Miss Morris' fiancé and Kai's father David Arnold broke a leg, wrist, finger and ribs, injured his shoulder, ankle, neck and nerves in his leg and arm, and suffered trauma in the crash.

An Arsenal FC scarf was tied around a roadside tree and photographs of Woodmansterne Primary School pupil Kai and nursery nurse Miss Morris were left in memory of the pair.

The missing tributes (53671687)

But some time on December 28, 2015, the tributes were stripped from the tree on Banstead Road.

Friends and family have asked nearby residents for help in tracing the tributes and have appealed for information on social media.

Jake Noakes, 14, raised more than £1,500 for a memorial bench for his friend Kai after setting up a fundraising page in July 2014.

The bench is now in Woodmansterne Park recreation ground.

Jake said: "I am very upset by the missing tributes.

"Lots of people worked extremely hard to make the area look amazing, which it did.

"It's horrible to think that someone has been there and destroyed this work.

"All that everyone really wants to get back are the things of sentimental value such as Kai's Arsenal scarf that was left as a tribute but now been taken."

Surrey County Council and Epsom and Ewell Borough Council confirmed they had not removed the tributes.

Jake said: "If whoever has done this would like to return the items no questions will be asked, we just want the stuff back.

"I hope that whoever has done it sees how much the items meant to us and returns them."

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Norman Hornigold, Sales and Marketing Director of SEH BAC, said: "It is the perfect solution to saving on your energy bills giving you a quieter home, too."

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Top trainer awarded

RACING trainer Simon Dow has been awarded the Sir David Prosser Trophy after being confirmed as Epsom's most successful trainer in 2015.

The trophy has been awarded since 2000 to an Epsom-based trainer who clinches the most flat race wins at racecourses across Britain. Mr Dow racked up 21 flat wins last year – four more than second-placed Jim Boyle.

The Sir David Prosser Trophy will be presented to Mr Dow at the Investec Spring Meeting on April 20 – the racecourse's first meeting of the year.

Mr Dow, 54, now based at Thirty Acre Barn, Headley, said: "This award is generating healthy and strong competition among all the Epsom trainers, so it is a great honour to win it for 2015. A huge thank you goes to my wonderful staff for their hard work all year round, which resulted in our small team receiving this recognition."

Simon Durrant, general manager for Epsom Downs Racecourse, said: "We would like to extend our congratulations to Simon Dow and the other trainers based in Epsom."

Epsom claimed 111 flat wins and had just under 500 horses placed in 2015.

More than £6,000 has been raised since start of Dominic Bernard appeal

Community rally round the family of murdered teen

REPORTER
CRAIG RICHARD
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london.newsquest.co.uk

MORE than £6,000 has been raised in just ten days for the family of Epsom teenager Dominic Bernard who was murdered in Guyana.

His aunt Ann Paul Gobderhan set up a GoFundMe page on Friday, January 15 to help Mr Bernard's parents Linda and Andrew with air fares, accommodation, funeral parlour and legal fees.

As of Monday, January 25, £6,167 had been raised.

Mr Bernard's parents flew out to Guyana last week, where they attended a court hearing and thanked local people for holding candlelight vigils and for their support.

Mr Bernard's body was found in a shallow grave on Friday, January 8 after he went missing in October 2015, shortly after travelling to the South American country to explore his Guyanese heritage and his love for photography and filmmaking.

Dominic Bernard went missing in Guyana. (53639897)

Five people have since been charged in connection with the aspiring filmmaker's murder – including his godbrother, Aaron Hing, 22, and 23-year-old Staymon George.

Friends and family have also been leaving tributes on Ms Gobderhan's GoFundMe page.

Devika Persaud wrote: "My deepest condolences to the Bernard family.

"May God continue to give you the strength and support you need to get through this.

"If my heart is so broken after hearing of your son I cannot imagine what you guys are going through.

"Heaven has gained another angel. I'm so sorry for your loss."

Lauren Faye Pollard Forde wrote: "My deepest sympathy to the Bernard family.

"May your son rest in peace. God bless you all."

Bibi Hodge Shaw wrote: "May God give the family strength in this time of sorrow and pray that those that took his life so callously pay for their sins and the unjust way of treating someone they were supposed to take care of.

"May God be your family at this time as you grieve."

His aunt wrote: "The UK authorities are accommodating in minor ways, but not assisting in any way financially.

"We are a fun and loving family, and we will do anything for anyone. Now is the time that we need to show our support for Linda and Andrew.

"Share this campaign in any way you know how.

"We can ease their suffering in a way where at least they would not have to worry about future expenses. Let's do this.

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I know we will get a great response. That's just what we do in times of need. God bless you."

To donate, visit: https://www.gofundme.com/krjbn-pcs

Is shoe clue the key

NIKE shoe prints left on the bonnets of keyed and scratched cars in Banstead may be the vital clue in identifying a gang of vandals.

Surrey Police are investigating at least eight incidents of cars being vandalised in and around Garratts Lane, Banstead between October 2 and Sunday, January 10.

The attacks have caused thousands of pounds.

Shoe prints left on the bonnet of a black ford Fiesta targeted on November 15 match those of two different makes of Nike trainers.

One mark matches a Nike Air Force trainer, while the other matches that of a Nike Air Max trainer.

Surrey Police hope this new line of enquiry will prompt the suspect to come forward or lead to further information.

PC Carmen Lambert Singer, said: "We have stepped up patrols in these areas to try and identify those involved and in a bid to prevent any further attacks. The footwear mark found is one of a number of lines of enquiry we are pursuing.

"We are also looking at whether these incidents are linked, due to the proximity of the offences and the fact that all the damage which has been caused is of a very similar nature."

If you can help, call Surrey Police on 101, quoting crime reference 45150103897.

Debate on services

NHS Surrey Downs Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) wants your views on how community hospital services are delivered.

The CCG is launching public consultations in Epsom, Leatherhead and West Molesey this week ahead of drop-in events next month.

The consultation follows a review of community hospital services held between March and July last year.

Dr Claire Fuller, clinical chairman at Surrey Downs Clinical Commissioning Group said: "We have launched this public consultation to hear what local people think of the options we have put forward.

"The four options focus on where services are located in future to best meet changes in the population and future demand for healthcare."

NHS Surrey Downs CCG will be in the Ashley Centre in Epsom from 11am to 2pm on Thursday, January 28, in the Swan Centre, Leatherhead between 9am and 12pm, and in Molesey Community Centre, West Molesey on Tuesday, February 2 from 9am to 1pm.

For more information about the consultation, and to take the CCG's survey, see surreydownsccg.nhs.uk/communityhospitalservices.

Epsom Council prepares to vote on Ashley Centre parking charge change

Fears for town centre trade ahead of parking hike vote

REPORTER
CRAIG RICHARD
craig.richard@
london.newsquest.co.uk

PROPOSED increases in parking charges in Epsom have been slammed as extortionate and excessive by businesses ahead of a final vote on the planned rises next month.

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council's Environment Committee unanimously gave provisional approval last week for plans to increase the cost of parking in council-run car parks.

The proposals will be decided as part of a wider review of fees and charges at a full council meeting on Thursday, February 11.

The cost of parking for up to six hours in the Ashley Centre in Epsom could rise from £10 to £12 if councillors approve the changes.

The council says the changes are necessary to fund improvements in its car parks across the borough.

Earlier this month it emerged the council would need to save £1m more than the £2.3m originally anticipated over the next four years due to Government cuts to local authorities.

Mixed response to planned parking charge changes

Business owners in the Epsom shopping centre believe the proposed increases will drive shoppers away from the town.

Joseph Adu, 31, branch manager at Jones Bootmakers, said: "I think it is ridiculous and extortionate. That's central London prices.

"It is quite expensive for a shopping centre already."

Katie Williams, 18, a hair stylist at Regis, said clients already complain about the cost of parking in the centre.

She said: "If they're going up that will probably put more strain on the clients and some of the girls who work here."

Lala Ribeiro, 43, a waitress at Café Moka on the outside of the centre disagreed.

She said: "I think we'll still get our regular customers every day."

The Ashley Centre's general manager David Beddows said: "We do believe this will have a detrimental effect on our retailers and ultimately on the whole town centre as this significant hike in parking costs is very likely to make people think twice before parking and shopping in Epsom."

A spokeswoman for the council said: "These changes are designed as part of a longer term strategy to promote Hook Road as a long term stay car park, Upper High Street and Depot Road as long to medium term parking options, Ashley Centre as a medium to short term car park and Town Hall and Hope Lodge as short term car parks.

"Until April 2016, all council car park charges will have been static for two years and some charges will not have been increased for four years.

"The council will be engaging with local businesses over the coming few months to inform a six month review of future car park fees and charges setting."

Pub attack man jailed

A MAN who smashed a glass in a woman's face before attacking a man who helped her has been jailed for 16 months.

Lawrence Francis, 52, from Great Tattenhams, Epsom, pleaded guilty to two counts of assault at Croydon Crown Court on Monday.

Francis had been drinking in The Melbourne pub on Manor Road, Wallington, on July 31 when he attacked the woman, 32, leaving her with a two-inch cut to the face.

The force of the impact caused her to fall over and cut her knee.

Both wounds required stitches.

Paramedics were called to the pub to deal with the incident.

The court heard that Francis then punched a 46-year-old man who came to help the woman and, when he fell on the floor, kicked him in the face.

The victim needed 20 stitches for a three-inch cut above his eye.

Francis told police he had only meant to throw a drink over the woman to get back at her for throwing one over him.

He also claimed he attacked the other man in self-defence.

Francis was jailed for 16 months by the court.

Events for Sport Relief are announced

SPORT RELIEF events across the borough have been announced, including a run in Nonsuch Park and a swimathon.

The Sport Relief Swimathon will see swimmers take to the pool in the Rainbow Leisure Centre on Saturday, March 19 for three challenging distances of either 1.5km, 2.5km or 5km.

The Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile – where super sprinters and willing walkers can complete a course of one, three or six miles – returns to Nonsuch Park on Sunday, March 20.

Half of the money raised by the public through Sport Relief goes towards helping some of the poorest communities in the UK.

The other half will make a difference to people worldwide.

Cllr Jan Mason, chairman of the Leisure Committee said: "From little ones with their mums and dads, to runners up against the clock there's something for everyone to make themselves feel proud on this special day." To register your place for both the Nonsuch Park Sport Relief Mile and the Rainbow Leisure Centre's Sport Relief Swimathon visit www.sportrelief.com

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council is also looking for volunteers to help with the Nonsuch Park Sport Relief Mile. If you can help, get in touch on 01372 732 000 or email leisuredevelopments@epsom-ewell.go.uk

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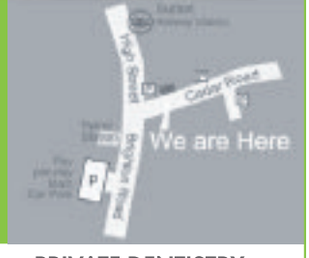

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ON SCREEN: Keep Our St Helier Hospital are screening a one-hour documentary on the privatisation of the NHS in Sutton on Friday night. Sell Off will be shown at Friends Meeting House, 10 Cedar Road, Sutton from 7pm on Friday, January 29.

SMASHED ROOF: The sunroof of an Audi was smashed in after someone threw an object off a bridge in Ashtead on Sunday. Surrey Police said an unknown object was dropped from the Leatherhead Road at about 4.30pm on January 24 onto traffic below.
No one was hurt. Police have asked for witnesses to report suspicious behaviour to 101, quoting reference 45160006459.

HATE CRIME: Surrey Police will be running a hate crime information stand at the Ashley Centre in Epsom.
Local officers and the Diversity Team will be at the centre between 10am and midday on Saturday, January 30, to advise people on dealing with hate crime.

UNDERSTAND ALZHEIMER'S: The Alzheimer's Society is holding a free four week course to help carers of dementia sufferers understand the illness. The course will begin on Thursday, February 4, at Glyn Hall in Cheam Road, Ewell Village.
To book a place, or for more information, contact the Alzheimer's Society on 01403 213019 or surrey@alzheimers.org.uk

Chinese takeaway includes a surprise package

Shell shocked ... by hidden crab in meal

REPORTER
BEN WEICH
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A TADWORTH student was shocked when she choked on a small crab lurking in her Chinese takeaway – and she claims the Epsom restaurant that served her has not apologised.

Megan Taylor, 19, of Chetwode Road, Tadworth, ordered garlic mussels from China Chef, one of which contained a crab about the size of a fingernail.

Her boyfriend, Aaron Farrington, 19, said: "We were sitting down to eat our meal and Megan started choking.

"She then spat out this little crab that was in her mussel.

"Even though it's quite small it caused her to choke because it's got a hard shell.

"I then rang China Chef, where we got it from, and I didn't even get an apology.

"All they said was they weren't to know.

"And they asked me, 'What do you want me to do about it?'."

Megan Taylor, of Chetwode Road, Tadworth, with the crab

China Chef – which has a Food Standards Agency hygiene rating of zero out of five – said a refund had been offered, but maintained it was not at fault.

A China Chef spokesman said: "Our supplier is from New Zealand – if they checked everything and still didn't know anything was wrong we're sorry to hear that. We've offered a refund for the garlic mussels and 20 per cent off their next order but the customer is still not satisfied.

"It's very reasonable to offer them a refund for the mussel dish and if this still didn't solve the problem then we are afraid we could not offer more than we should."

China Chef is based in East Street, Epsom.

Appeal after street attack

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a man was seriously injured when he was knocked unconscious after leaving a nightclub in Epsom.

The victim, 39, left a nightclub in East Street shortly before midnight on Friday, January 22, when he was approached by a man and a woman.

The victim was allegedly assaulted by the man, and was knocked unconscious to the ground. He suffered serious eye injuries, and has been left with potentially permanent eye damage.

A member of the public intervened, causing the attacker and the woman to leave.

The man is described as a white man in his late twenties to early thirties, of medium build and approximately 5ft 9ins tall. He was smartly dressed and wearing a long sleeved shirt.

Police are appealing for help

Anyone with any information should contact the police on 101 and quoting reference 45160006618, or report online at my.surrey.police.uk/splonlinereportingweb

'Stabbed by colleague'

A CURRY house owner was attacked by two colleagues just metres from diners in a row over management of the business, a court heard.

Chef Aziz Miah, of Clayton Road in Chessington, is alleged to have stabbed business partner Mohammed Rahman at the Red Rose on January 20, 2015, while fellow chef Mohammed Fayzur Rahman (not related to the victim) is said to have held him down during the attack.

Mr Rahman was hospitalised with injuries "so serious" doctors feared his arm would have to be amputated, Kingston Crown Court heard on Monday this week. Mr Miah, 54, and the victim were said to have argued over a new contract that would have seen Mr Miah relinquish his ties to the restaurant.

Both Mr Miah and Mr Rahman deny charges of causing grievous bodily harm. The trial continues.

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US storm has impact

LEATHERHEAD was at risk of flooding this week as a depression that caused heavy snow in the US swept across Surrey, according to the Met Office.

The weather system that caused Storm Jonas was due to bring heavy rain to the UK. The Met Office issued a yellow warning – cautioning residents to "be aware" – for Surrey as well as Cumbria, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Devon and Cornwall and released a statement.

The warning was valid from 3am until 6pm on Wednesday.

The Met Office statement read: "Some locally heavy rainfall is possible and with this falling on saturated ground some localised flooding is possible."

'The offences these men committed against their victim were horrific'

Jail for man who joined in sexually abusing a woman

REPORTER
BEN WEICH
ben.weich@newsquest.co.uk

A LEATHERHEAD man was jailed for 10 years on Monday for his part, along with a number of men, in sexually abusing a woman in Redhill.

James Wilson, 36, of Kingston Road, was found guilty by jury on two counts of oral rape of a woman in her twenties in October 2014.

Two others were sentenced to a total of 30 years in prison for the systematic sexual abuse.

The victim was abused over a five-day period after 28-year-old Charlie Jones, from Redhill, entered her home under false pretences.

He later invited various men who also abused her, inflicting serious internal injuries.

The victim gained the courage to call police on the fifth day of abuse and Jones was arrested a short time later. He was charged and remanded in custody.

James Wilson, 36, has been jailed for 10 years for oral rape of a woman in her 20s

Jones was jailed for 20 years after being found guilty of rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault, criminal damage and assault.

Joseph Noye, 27, from Billinghurst, was found guilty of oral rape, sexual assault and criminal damage – receiving a 10-year sentence.

Other than Noye's guilty plea to criminal damage, all three denied all charges on April 28 and were found guilty by a jury.

A 22-year-old man was sentenced in December after being found guilty of theft of the victim's mobile phone and tablet, while three other men were acquitted.

Detective Constable Ben Andreas said: "This was a complex and lengthy investigation and I welcome the sentences passed.

"The offences these men committed against their victim were horrific, and although the sentences will never take away the trauma the woman experienced, I hope they go some way to help her move on with her life.

"I hope the lengthy sentences passed to these offenders will encourage any victim of sexual assault or abuse to report their ordeal to police so they can be investigated thoroughly."

Advice for those affected by sexual abuse and assault can be found on the Surrey Police website at http://www.surrey.police.uk

MP admits to using poppers

CRISPIN Blunt told MPs he's a user of poppers in a House of Commons debate on whether to make the sale of the drug illegal.

An amendment to exclude the drug from the Psychoactive Substances Bill was voted down by 309 votes to 228.

Poppers are especially popular among gay men, and are used to prepare for sex and enhance sexual pleasure.

Mr Blunt, the Conservative MP for Reigate, announced he was gay in 2010.

He said to the chamber: "There are some times when something is proposed which becomes personal to you.

"And you realise the Government is about to do something fantastically stupid. Then one has a duty to speak up. I out myself as a popper user. I would be directly affected by this legislation."

Under the Psychoactive Substances Bill no-one would be breaking the law by possessing poppers, but anyone selling it would be subject to criminal charges.

The legislation would introduce a blanket ban on the production, distribution, sale and supply of so-called designer drugs.

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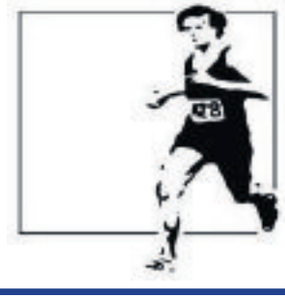

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Views on the village

SHAPE the future of Ashtead by giving your views on the character of the village, what type of houses there should be and what would make the area better.

Residents have until the end of February to take part in a consultation covering everything from housing, transport and the local economy, which could guide developers when considering the future of village.

If Mole Valley District Council accepts the draft Ashtead Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) it will be sent to the planning inspector.

If approved, residents will then be able to vote on the plan in a referendum.

The plan will guide developers when considering the future of the village.

Ashtead Community Vision – the forum's working group – is encouraging residents to engage in the consultation process by filling in an online questionnaire and giving feedback on the draft.

The forum is holding an open morning between 10am and 12.30pm on Saturday, February 6.

Full details of the Draft Ashtead Neighbourhood Development Plan and copies of the questionnaire are available at www.ashteadcommunityvision.org.uk.

Five-week-old vehicle bursts into flames shattering home's front windows

Families escape after new car 'explodes' on driveway

REPORTER
BY CRAIG RICHARD
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london.newsquest.co.uk

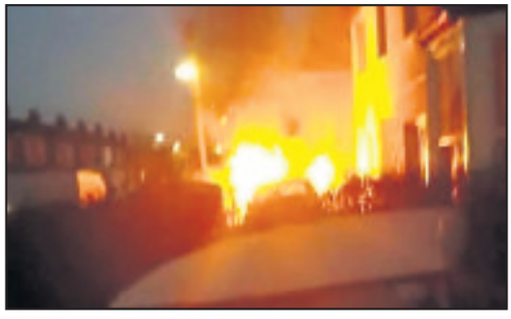
AN EPSOM mother has blasted a major car company after her five-week-old car "exploded" in her driveway, endangering a baby, two dogs and four adults on Wednesday night.

Charlotte Cole, 46, was forced to escape her home along with her partner Barry Smith, and their dog Oscar, six alongside the couple above them and their one-year-old son, after her new Renault Captur burst into flames.

An off-duty firefighter who was passing by the house helped them to safety from their garden.

Just ten more minutes and the fire would have spread to the house, according to firefighters.

Crews from Epsom and Banstead fire station were called to the blaze in Upper Court Road, Epsom, which took place at about 5.10pm last Wednesday, January 20.



Ms Cole's new Renault Captur on fire

The firefighters left the property at about 6.10pm.

Nobody was hurt but the front windows of the house shattered and Ms Cole's new car was destroyed.

Renault is co-operating with Ms Cole's insurance company to investigate what happened, and said it was unaware of any similar incidents happening to its vehicles.

Ms Cole said: "I bought my brand spanking new car on December 11 from Renault Wilsons – it was lovely.

"I had no problems whatsoever. I loved my car."

But Ms Cole's love affair with her new car abruptly ended when it looked like it burst into flames.

She said: "I thought someone was banging at the door, but it was the car.

"The whole car was just well ablaze."

Wilsons car dealership in Kiln Lane, Epsom, offered Ms Cole, a receptionist at a doctor's surgery in Ewell, a replacement car while she has her insurance claim sorted and gets a new mode of transport.

But Ms Cole is still seeking answers from Renault.

She said: "Renault has an awful lot to answer for.

"I could have been in the car. It doesn't bear thinking about.

"The fire brigade told me, another ten minutes and the house would have gone."

Surrey Fire and Rescue are currently carrying out an investigation into the cause of the fire.

Insurers have launched an investigation as well and are consulting Renault's technical team.

A spokesman from Renault UK said: "The customer has been in contact with our customer relations team regarding this, so Renault UK is aware of the issue.

"Renault UK is not aware of any similar incidents occurring and it is able to provide the services of its technical team to the insurance company to investigate."

Teen attack

A man verbally abused and then assaulted a teenager in Epsom in broad daylight.

Surrey Police are appealing for witnesses after the assault in Station Approach, Epsom which took place between 3pm and 4.10pm on Monday, November 16.

They have released a photograph taken by a member of the public of a man they would like to speak to in connection with the attack.

Investigating officer PC Paul Fitzpatrick, said: "We are extremely keen to talk to anyone we have not already spoken to who saw what happened, or anyone who recognises the man in the image as a matter of urgency.

"He may be able to provide valuable information which could help piece together the events surrounding the incident and I would urge anyone who either saw him in the area or who knows who he is to contact police. If you wish to remain anonymous the independent charity Crimestoppers can be contacted on 0800 555 111.

"I would like to take this opportunity to praise the quick thinking person who took the image we are releasing as it may prove vital to our investigation."

To offer information about the Station Approach attack, call Surrey Police on 101 quoting 45150104364. To view the picture visit epsomguardian.co.uk

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County pupils rate well

ONLY GCSE pupils of three other local authorities in the South East scored better GCSE results than those from Surrey in 2015, Department for Education statistics have revealed.

Seventy-three per cent of Surrey pupils got five A*-C grades, with 64.7 per cent achieving that when English and maths were included.

Those were well above the South East averages of 67.9 per cent and 59.9, respectively, and the England-wide averages of 64.9 per cent and 53.8 per cent.

And Surrey bucked a national trend by improving its 'good' GCSEs by 1.2 per cent from the previous year.

Leatherhead schools St Andrew's and Howard of Effingham – as well as Rosebery School in Epsom – all featured in Surrey's top 10 schools, with over 80 per cent of pupils at those schools leaving with five or more passing grades.

Fifty-one of Surrey's 55 secondary schools are rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted, educating 90 per cent of the county's children.

Charlotte Lajoie, 17, from Epsom, was killed in a car crash on the A24

Date for trial

A TRIAL date has been set for the man charged with causing the death of Epsom teenager Charlotte Lajoie and seriously injuring two others by dangerous driving.

Arthur Berry, 19, of Findon, Worthing will next appear at Guildford Crown Court on Monday, February 22.

He was charged after jockey Charlotte Lajoie, 17, from Epsom was killed in a crash on the A24 in Capel on April 26, 2015.

Another 17-year-old girl from Epsom was taken to hospital with life threatening injuries.

Mr Berry faces one count of causing death by dangerous driving, and two counts of causing serious injury by driving.

He appeared at East Surrey Magistrate's Court on Monday.

Could you be the teacher to make a difference to the young people of Croydon?

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Mother to chop off long locks to help charity make chemotherapy wigs

'I can't run a race but I can grow my hair and donate it'

REPORTER
CRAIG RICHARD
craig.richard@london.newsquest.co.uk

A EWELL mother is doing her bit for charity by losing her long hair in memory of two family members who fought cancer.

Kallie Lee, 28, a mother of two young boys, is donating her hair to The Little Princess Trust and is fundraising for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.

She will donate her hair to the Little Princess Trust – a charity that provides real hair wigs for boys and girls across the UK and Ireland who have sadly lost their own hair through cancer treatment.

Ms Lee was moved to help the two charities by her grandmother, Heather MacDonald, and great aunt, Jean Henry, who both lost their hair during chemotherapy treatment.

Kalli Lee is donating her hair to The Little Princess Trust

Her grandmother survived thanks to chemotherapy, but her great aunt sadly did not.

Ms Lee said: "I'm not a runner. I can't run a race, but I can grow my hair, cut it off and donate it.

"I just want to raise as much money as I can.

"Every penny counts."

Ms Lee, from Primrose Walk, Ewell, is having her hair cut on Friday, March 11 at Headmasters in High Street, Epsom.

By not having had a "drastic" haircut for more than 3 years, she has been preparing for the change for a long time.

But she still admitted to being nervous ahead of her date with the barber's chair.

She said: "I booked my hair appointment and I thought, 'This is really happening'. I'm a little bit nervous. I do like having long hair, but then again, some people don't have that luxury.

"I figure my hair will grow back and that is how I can help."

She is holding a tea party for family and friends with the proceeds going to the charity.

You can donate to the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity at www.justgiving.com/Kalli-Pasqualucci.

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Special display at the launch of funding bid to improve park

Mike Teasdale, Dr Tim Carter and Mayor Chris Frost (53918874)

Wall hanging of palace unveiled at town hall

REPORTER
CRAIG RICHARD
craig.richard@
london.newsquest.co.uk

A WATERCOLOUR wall hanging of arguably Henry VIII's grandest building project was unveiled at the launch of a bid for funding to improve a historic park on Monday night.

A print of Joris Hoefnagel's 1572 watercolour of Nonsuch Palace was revealed at Epsom Town Hall on Monday.

The unveiling coincided with the launch of the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee's project to apply for Heritage Lottery funding to improve the park and enhance the public's knowledge of Nonsuch Palace.

The group do not know how much they need because they have not finalised the work yet.

Construction on the palace started in 1538 on a site between Epsom and Sutton and took several years to complete.

Nonsuch Palace would have cost more than £100 million if built today, and Henry VIII hoped it would rival Francis I of France's Chateau de Chambord.

It was razed to the ground by Barbara, Countess of Castlemaine, mistress of Charles II, around 1682-3.

Mike Teasdale, the chairman of Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee, believes the project could greatly improve the area, if the committee's bid is successful.

He said on Tuesday: "Last night was only the first step in a relatively long-term project, but I'm excited about it.

"So many people think the park is wonderful to walk around and I truly believe Nonsuch Palace is a little gem."

The wall hanging has been loaned to the council by the Lord of the Manor of Nonsuch, Dr Tim Carter, and can be viewed at Epsom Town Hall.

Members of the public are welcome to view the hanging of Nonsuch Palace by Joris Hoefnagel but are asked to contact the Town Hall in advance to make an appointment.

Orchestra's tribute to founder

THE Epsom Symphony Orchestra will dedicate their next concert on March 5 at Epsom Playhouse to the memory of their founder and former conductor John Clifford Gale, who died on December 27.

Mr Gale formed the orchestra in 1951 after joining the RAF Central Band at the age of 18, where he became the youngest RAF bandmaster.

His sister Gwendoline Gale said: "He said he wanted Epsom to have an orchestra and he would conduct it."

Ms Gale went on to become a professional violinist in the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and her sister became a cellist in the Philharmonic Orchestra.

John Gale, who died last month

Mr Gale conducted the Epsom Symphony Orchestra for 20 years, and founded and conducted the Nonsuch Opera Group, before moving to Northamptonshire to found the Midland Philharmonic Orchestra. He is survived by his second wife, Caroline Gale, and three children.

Debate on council money

EPSOM and Ewell borough council's budget slashing means councillors were set to debate how much money they give to charity and a hike in fees and charges for residents on Thursday evening.

High up on the council's social committee meeting agenda is to address its current level of support for voluntary organisations.

It currently gives money to the Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB) and Voluntary Action Mid-Surrey (VAMS).

Residents' Association councillor Neil Dallen said although he was happy with the level of contribution to CABs, he would ask for clarification as to what VAMS does and how effective it is.

Coun Dallen also said the fees the social committee are responsible for – like cemetery fees and those levied at social centres – are likely to rise by six per cent, which he called "reasonable and necessary".

Homeless units tabled

WHETHER or not to build nine temporary accommodation units for homeless people in Epsom was due to be discussed at a council meeting on Wednesday.

Despite costing the council an estimated £373,500, the proposal was put forward, in part, because it was believed it would save money in the long run on nightly paid emergency accommodation.

A property at 1-3 Blenheim Road would be renovated to provide nine new single-bed units.

In the meeting agenda it is also proposed the plan would improve the quality of life not just of the most vulnerable in Epsom and Ewell, but that of all residents.

Labour councillor Kate Chinn said the current stock of accommodation for the homeless is insufficient, with some people sent as far as Thornton Heath.

The current stock of 98 units was described in the agenda as 'insufficient' to meet the requirements for the council in its statutory duties to homeless people.

Also to be discussed on Wednesday was a proposal to find some use for Horton Chapel, which has been described in previous meetings as a 'derelict eyesore'.

A number of projects have been proposed, including renovating it for office space.

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Obituary

JEAN ELSIE BEXLEY

Passed away peacefully after a long illness at Priory Court Care Home, Ewell on 14th January, aged 82. She will be greatly missed by her daughter Janice, son-in-law Nigel and all who knew her. Now at peace with much loved husband Bob, daughter Allyson and son-in-law Roger Fulker. Funeral Service to be held at St Martin of Tours, Parish Church, Church Street, Epsom on Thursday 4th February at 11.30am. All welcome. Donations in lieu of flowers to The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity or Battersea Dogs & Cats Home c/o W A Truelove and Son, 14-18 Church Road, Epsom KT17 4AB or donate online at www.watltd.co.uk

ALAN CHARLES ODD

Passed away on 10th January, aged 93. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral private. Thanksgiving Service at Holy Trinity Church, Wallington, on Thursday 4th February, at 12.45pm. Donations, payable to The Stroke Association, may be sent to W A Truelove & Son Ltd, 22 Mulgrave Road, Sutton SM2 6LE Tel: 020 8642 0089

HEATHER VICTORIA SCOTT

Sadly passed away on 19th January 2016 aged 91. Funeral service at North East Surrey Crematorium on Thursday 4th February 2016 at 2.40pm. Donations if desired to Alzheimer's Society c/o Alan Greenwood & Sons, 5 Shelvers Hill, Tadworth, KT20 5PU

Obituary

BARBARA ETHEL RUDLAND

Formerly of Digdens Rise, Epsom passed away peacefully on 17th January aged 94. Wife of the late Walter and a very special Mum, Grandmother, and Great Grandmother. Her funeral will be held at Randalls Park, Leatherhead on Tuesday 9th February at 1.15pm. Family flowers only, but donations to The Salvation Army c/o Longhurst Funeral Directors, Epsom.

Acknowledgements

Retired Male, single seeks companionship with mature genuine Female in likewise situation. Please reply to: Box number, CL0705565 South London Guardian Newspapers, Floor 9 & 10 Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5AS

Anniversary In Memoriam

TOM TRAYNOR

RIP

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Your loving wife Mary and family

In Memoriam

In loving memory of
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We still hear you laugh
We still feel your thoughts
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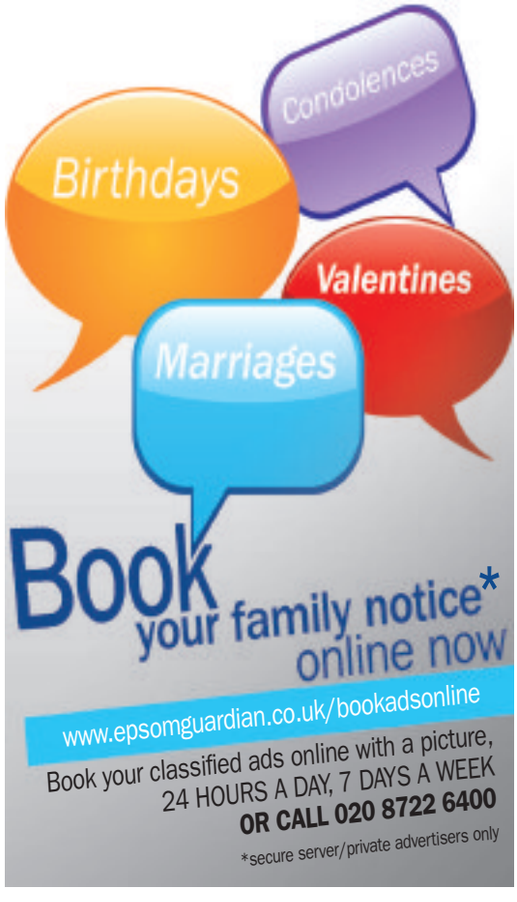

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TAPAS NIGHT: El Patio in Derby Square, Epsom is holding a tapas night in aid of the mayor's charities from 7pm on Tuesday. The restaurant will be donating a portion of the evening's takings to Age Concern Epsom and Ewell, Epsom and Ewell Community Fund and Epsom Riding for the Disabled.

DUCK RACE: The Ewell Court Residents' Association has announced its annual duck race will take place on Saturday, May 7 this year.
The event, which is famous for Cllr Eber Kington's live commentary from mid-stream, will start at Stepping Stones in Green Lanes and finish at the Ewell Court bridge.

PRESENT HELP: The Ashley Centre has announced its special Valentine's Day promotional events – which will take place in the week leading up to Sunday, February 14.
This year the shopping centre will be hosting an 'inspiration station' and gift guides, where shoppers struggling for present ideas will get a helping hand from well-known Ashley Centre retailers.

BACKSTAGE TOUR: The Epsom Playhouse is putting on free backstage tours for children aged eight and over during half-term, where stage managers and staff will give an extensive tour of the famous venue.
On Wednesday, February 17 tours at 12pm and 2.30pm will be held.
Passes for the tours are available through the box office on 01372 742555.

Campaigners fear that trust could become a victim of its own success

Hospital 'needs more cash' as patient numbers spike

REPORTER
ANDREA DOWNEY
Andrea.downey@
london.newsquest.co.uk

EPSOM and St Helier NHS Trust is not doing enough to prepare for future patient influxes despite record numbers of admissions, campaigners have claimed.

Epsom and St Helier hospitals admitted more than 896,230 patients for treated treatment last year, 11,000 more than in 2014. There were 146,842 urgent cases in accident and emergency departments, with 31,270 of those coming by ambulance.

Dave Ash, a founding member of Keep Our St Helier Hospital (KOSHH), said the NHS trust "needs to be demanding more money" to cope with future pressures.

He said: "Let's not forget that early 2015 saw a massive increase in A&E attendances over the winter period, for which the tariff paid to trusts actually decreases per patient, once a certain number of patients have been seen.

"Essentially, this means that the hospital is being financially punished for treating 'too many' people.

"The local clinical commissioning group and the trust's own projections foresee an increase in demand by 2020, which will require an extra 300 beds in addition to the existing 1,200 or so in order to maintain current capacity.

Trust chief executive Daniel Elkeles said the trust had recruited 303 nurses since April 2015 to keep up with the rise in patient numbers.

Trust chief executive Daniel Elkeles

He added: "We are really proud of the work we do – our staff and volunteers are dedicated to making sure that our patients are well cared for and their friends and family are supported.

"With such high demand for our services, I am delighted to say that the hard work is paying off.

"I would like to thank all of our staff and volunteers for their hard work during the course of the past 12 months – despite the high number of patients using our services; their commitment to the cause has ensured we can continue to provide high quality, compassionate care.

"Although 2015 was a very busy year, we're expecting to see a further increase in the number of patients coming to us this year, and look forward to the challenge.

Figures published by the Royal College of Nursing this month showed there were 399 empty nursing posts at the trust last summer, a vacancy rate of 22 per cent.

Last month the hospitals ran out of beds for a day as a winter vomiting bug hit and in the same week – on three occasions – the trust only had one bed available for patients in adult social care.

In November a Care Quality Commission report found a number of concerns in the way the hospitals critical care units were run.

The trust was forced to draft in help from St George's Hospital in Tooting to improve its service.

A report from St George's is expected in February.

Crime concerns

EPSOM and Ewell Police have scheduled a meeting in West Ewell next month after concerns over anti-social behaviour and criminal activity around the Watersedge estate.

Police engaged emergency powers to disperse groups of two or more people on Tolworth, Chessington and the Epsom border on January 16 and 17.

The weekend prior to the dispersal order being enforced – on Saturday, January 9 – a 16-year-old boy had his white Lexmoto motorbike stolen by a gang of youths.

He was threatened with a knife and punched in the stomach in Hogsmill Way, West Ewell.

Four teenagers were arrested in relation to the crime. Two of the four aged 13 and 17 have been released on bail until February 20. A 14 year-old and 15 year-old are on bail until February 22.

Prior to the order being made, a police superintendent said: "Members of the public have been intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed in public places and that anti-social behaviour is significant and a persistent problem in that area."

The panel meeting takes place from 7pm on Tuesday, February 9 at The Edge in Rowden Road, West Ewell.

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Highlights & inclusions

- Entrance to The Alnwick Garden
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- Visit to York
- Three nights' dinner, bed and English breakfast accommodation at the three-star Holiday Inn in Washington (or similar)
- Coach travel from the local area
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Rising parking charges and cost of waste collection? Epsom and Ewell Borough Council vote on fees and charges

I DON'T THINK THEY ARE DOING TO BAD A JOB, THIRD LOWEST COUNCIL TAX IN SURREY, NO CUTS TO SERVICES IN LAST FOUR YEARS, PROTECTED THE GREEN BELT.

Resident man

Transport for London announce takeover of London's suburban rail services

HAD TO DOUBLE CHECK THE DATE. NOT APRIL 1ST

Agitater

Cut-price supermarket giants unveil plans for controversial new Epsom store

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Disturbing

IT is disturbing that Chris Grayling is using his platform as MP for Epsom and Ewell to mount a high profile personal campaign for the UK to leave the European Union.

Many jobs could be lost if an EU exit costs local businesses the significant benefit of trading on equal terms with 27 of our closest markets.

Perhaps Chris Grayling could explain the full costs to Britain of an EU exit and if he foresees any difficulties rebuilding lost trade in more distant parts of the world. Certainly, there has been no preparation by his Government to find alternative trading partners.

Surely he was elected as our MP to represent his constituents and not to further his own ends. Therefore, he should consult with constituents before running a 'no' campaign in our name.

Chris Grayling has racked up a chequered history while in office. His decisions have led to the acknowledged serious rundown of prisons and even books being denied to prisoners working to reform; the introduction of swingeing court fees and cuts to legal aid; and the backing for inhumane welfare cuts for the country's least well off.

These decisions have drawn extreme criticism from professionals, removed people's rights and even led to a protest march by probation officers through Epsom. Some of his decisions were later reversed by his fellow Cabinet ministers.

However, there is no provision in this in-out referendum for the Conservative Party to continue to do this should Chris Grayling have got it wrong yet again.

IAN STRUTT, press officer, Epsom and Ewell Labour Party

Viewfinder

Tirzah Rowe captured the sun breaking through the clouds above Court recreation ground in Epsom. Send your photos of the borough to Becky.middleton@london.newsquest.co.uk marked Viewfinder.

Traffic chaos

ON a short walk to work I observed, in the space of five minutes, one driver failing to give way to the right at the Hook Road / Chase Road mini roundabout and nearly being caught on the rear right corner as a result, one driver turning right sharply without indicating in order to get into hook Road car park and stopping just three inches away from ramming another car side on as a result, and a seven and a half ton lorry deliberately running the red light to turn right into Hook Road from East Street.

This is, unfortunately, fairly typical of the standard of driving in Epsom these days. Anyone spending just a few minutes watching any of the major junctions in town will be able to confirm that. It is commonplace to see deliberate red light running, mini roundabouts being used as overtaking tools, cars and vans being driven on pavements in order to get round a queue and - on one recent occasion - a large van being driven for 100 feet on the wrong side of the road in Church Street to get round a queue. That instance ended in a near head-on collision at the lights, yet the driver at first still refused to reverse out of the way of the oncoming traffic, clearly expecting those who were obeying the rules to give way to him.

We urgently need traffic discipline CCTV installed at all the major junctions in town.

Peter Mugridge

Shop disaster

AS I often use the roads around this site which are often difficult to navigate, I think a supermarket would be a disaster. (It's Aldi Rage, Thursday, January 7) I would think it would be more appropriate to build much needed housing on this site. Sainsbury's superstore is close by.

Doreen Pearce

Wells Centre is invaluable

IT is with great disappointment and concern that a plan is in place to close the Wells Centre in Epsom.

This is an invaluable facility which supports many local elderly residents. It provides social interaction and activities along with a freshly cooked warm lunch five days a week. A warm friendly welcoming centre providing much needed company for the elderly. My mother has been attending the Centre for several years and benefited from the many activities and lively entertainment, encouraging her to remember many hobbies from the past and participate in signing which stimulates her memory.

As a professional who works in the local area supporting frail and vulnerable people, I am shocked that the council is considering depriving them of such an invaluable facility.

Much evidence has been published recently about loneliness in the elderly and the impact this can have on their health, both mentally and physically.

With such an ageing population we should be striving to support the elderly and I am shocked that a local council apparently run by the residents association are being so short sighted.

They are presuming that the Longmead Centre will be able to accommodate those no longer being able to access the Wells Centre.

We should all look to the future in supporting the increasingly frail and elderly residents who are trying to retain some independence and continue living in their own homes.

Name and address withheld

Why does olive green paint always signal pub price hike?

Editor Andrew Parkes has a number of thoughts every week, here are just five of them

5 THOUGHTS OF THE WEEK...

1. Why is it that as soon as a bar is redecorated in either slate grey or olive green paint it immediately thinks it is reasonable to hike drink prices by at least 50 per cent? Personally I think it is sad so many old-fashioned boozers are being revamped, but I don't care how trendy they look, no one should have to cough up £7.50 for a pint.

2. And on the subject of beer prices, why do these same trendy places now find it impossible to list lagers without adding the word 'craft'? Did you know that when Kronenbourg was losing the battle of the pumps with Stella Artois its response was to increase its price per pint and, as a direct result, sold more beer? Years ago my granny, who owned a clothes shop, told me if she was really struggling to sell something the best way to attract interest in the window was to increase the price.

3. Hearty congratulations to Johanna Konta for a truly gutsy performance. We have almost lost count of the number of years since we've had both a man and a woman in the quarter finals of a slam. It's 32 years since Jo Durie achieved the feat. Let's hope Johanna's warrior-like spirit can take her at least one step further in the competition.

4. I don't normally watch much TV at the weekend, but for whatever reason I found myself flicking on the box both on Saturday and Sunday morning at different points. At one stage I thought something must have got stuck, then I realised just about every televised moment is gifted to James Martin. Now I know cooking is more popular than ever these days and James seems a pleasant fellow, but surely he can't be the only option on the menu?

5. Finally, thanks to Dr Shrawan Roongta for a thought on the Oscars. The good doctor is quite right, 'stop whinging about diversity and get over yourselves'. What next, a boycott because there are not enough old people, not enough women, not enough nationalities?

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THIS WEEK'S REASONS TO GO OUT

THEATRE **Last Night a DJ Saved My Life at New Wimbledon Theatre from Wednesday to Saturday.** The one-and-only David Hasselhoff stars in this jukebox musical about a DJ in Ibiza and his wild child daughter. Shane Richie Junior also stars and hits include Spice Up Your Life, The Only Way is Up, Never Gonna Give You Up and Can't Touch This. Tickets cost from £22.40. More details atgtickets.com/wimbledon

COMEDY **Ross Noble at Back Door at the Secombe, Sutton, on Tuesday.** The free-wheeling, surreal comedian brings a warm-up gig to the tiny studio space at the Secombe. Tickets cost £17.50. Go to suttontheatres.co.ul

MUSIC **Alabama 3 at Tooting Tram and Social on Saturday.** Described as 'the best live band in the country' by the Guardian, the south London band who provided the theme to The Sopranos play an acoustic show with support. Tickets cost £25. Go to tootingtramand social.co.uk

THEATRE **Wilde Without The Boy at Omnibus Clapham on Wednesday.** A dramatisation of Wilde's famous 'De Profundis' letter written in 1897 to his lover Lord Alfred Douglas from his cell in Reading Gaol, the show forms part of Omnibus' LGBT+ microfest. Tickets cost £12 or £10 concessions. Go to omnibus-clapham.org

COMEDY **LOL Comedy Club at Tunnel 267, Wimbledon on Saturday.** Chris McCausland, Otiz Cannelloni, Gary Sansome and Juliet Meyers provide the laughs at the recently opened nightclub. Tickets cost £10. Go to tunnel267.com

MORE LEISURE ONLINE
EPSOMGUARDIAN.CO.UK/VIBE

Vibe

Comedian Stephen K Amos, plays Epsom Playhouse on February 7. He tells us what entertains him...

WHAT'S MY VIBE?

> "I used to fancy myself as a bit of a DJ and I bought one of those record players that came in a suitcase. I thought I was very cool until I went to a friend's party and took the sewing machine by mistake."

MUSIC

The radio station I listen to… is loads of them !

I remember in the 90s I was a huge fan of the Fugees and Lauryn Hill so I'd listen to Radio 1 with my two fingers poised over the play and record button (I think you'll find this is the early days of downloading) so I could tape their song 'Ready or Not' and play it to my friends.

I'd hear the opening lyrics 'Ready or not.... here I come' and be like yes I'm ready! I've been ready all day long! Only to have it ruined by the motormouth DJ talking over the track.

Later on, I used to fancy myself as a bit of a DJ and I bought one of those record players that came in a suitcase to take to parties. I thought I was very cool until I went to a friend's party and bought the sewing machine by mistake. At least it was a Singer.

I still listen to Radio 1 today but because I live in south London there's a plethora of pirate radio stations and I like to drive around and see what I pick up. On any given day you can hear Bhangra, afro-beat, gospel, reggae and grime – whatever that is.

My favourite band is… probably James Brown and his band. I recently saw a YouTube video of James Brown performing a Man's World with Pavarotti duetting doing opera.

They both had such different styles and it was amazing to see them giving props to each other singing together on stage. I don't think they could really believe what was happening either. I think they both upped their game because they respected each other as artists and relished the weirdness of it.

The album or song I can't get enough of right now… Because of streaming and radio I hadn't bought an album for ages until a few months ago when I saw a rapper called Akala in Camden.

He's Ms Dynamite's brother and he's got such conscious, smart lyrics that I actually went out and bought his album. He's got a positive, unique voice and hopefully he'll reach a wider audience.

My favourite festival memory… I'm lucky because I get to gig at some festivals and I can normally nip out to catch a live set of someone - even if it's someone I've never heard of.

At last year's Hyde Park Festival (British Summer Time at Hyde Park) I caught The Who who were amazing and played to 70,000 people - I had heard of them.

THEATRE/COMEDY

I always laugh at…When it comes to TV, I'm a huge fan of American sitcoms – I think the main difference between theirs and ours is that they seem to have a team of many writers who bring something new to the show. Modern Family is currently at the top of that list.

The best play I have seen… is the Bogus Woman by Kay Adshead performed up in Edinburgh a few years ago. It was a one-woman play about the experiences of an asylum seeker. It was incredibly powerful to see one person hold this amazing and gruelling story together.

My all-time favourite musical… Like watching a live music gig or live comedy, watching theatre can be a breathtaking experience. One musical that sticks out in my mind was seeing the legendary Chita Rivera in the title role of Kiss of the Spider Woman (she played the Spider Woman, not the Kiss).

I was truly gripped by the story and by her incredible stage presence and I actually thought she was playing to just me. I was in the third row and I could almost touch her - although that would have been frowned upon.

My favourite place to watch a show… Kiss of the Spider Woman was playing at the Shaftesbury Theatre and it was incredible. I love the old Victorian theatres and playhouses and for me they're the best venues in the world to play.

Ranging in size from 500 to 3,000 the acoustics have stood the test of time. I've played in a few less charming venues too – more like barns, hangers and fire hazards.

TV/FILM

My favourite movie is… I've been enjoying the odd thought provoking documentary. All Hail Netfix.

As a kid I loved… Nature programmes because it brought you closer to a world that was so far removed and I still watch them. David Attenborough's voice is the constant narrator in my head.

I'll make a point of staying in to watch… Because I work nights I can't stay in for anything and the beauty of modern technology is you can watch TV whenever you like – even watch it on the road. Obviously not if you're driving!

Stephen K Amos plays Epsom Playhouse on February 7. Tickets £17. Go to epsomplayhouse.co.uk.

LEGACY OF A LEGEND

SIR IAN McKELLEN

Sir Ian McKellen is leading the way in a star-studded Shakespeare on Film season at the British Film Institute to mark 400 years since the playwright's death.

The Shakespearean actor, 76, who adapted and starred in an acclaimed 1995 version of Richard III which shot across London at locations including Eltham Palace, helped launch the BFI's season which features 40 films and 25 events at BFI Southbank and more at cinemas around the country.

Speaking at a launch event at BFI Southbank on Monday, Sir Ian said there were difficulties taking Shakespeare from the theatre to the screen but they can be overcome.

He said: "If you see a film, you want it to be great cinema over great Shakespeare. And of course, the plays still remain. I think everyone should do whatever they like with Shakespeare."

Describing the Bard's legacy as a 'hydra-headed brand', Sir Ian said: "Shakespeare is more than just plays in the theatre.

"Baz Luhrmann's adaptation of Romeo and Juliet is immensely theatrical but totally cinematic and slashed text but the essence of Shakespeare is in there."

Head curator of the BFI's national archive Robin Baker introduced the wide-ranging programme.

He said: "Although Shakespeare died 400 years ago, there is no other writer who has had a greater impact on cinema. In a way, the numbers speak for themselves. If you look up Shakespeare on IMDB it comes up with 1,120 credits."

He added: "Live theatre offers something that is clearly immediate and very intimate between the audience and the people on stage yet film can offer a very different kind of intimacy and complicity with the audience by the advantage of having the close-up."

Shakespeare on Film runs from March 31 to May 31 and features a who's who of cinema, with features directed by and starring the likes of Laurence Olivier, Roman Polanski, Orson Welles, Kenneth Branagh, Maggie Smith, Judi Dench, Gus Van Sant and Heath Ledger.

Among the events is an exhibition remembering Olivier's 1948 version of Hamlet, a series of restored silent shorts played alongside specially-composed music and television previews including BBC2's The Hollow Crown: The Wars of the Roses, Henry VI parts 1 and 2, which stars Hugh Bonneville, Sally Hawkins, Benedict Cumberbatch and Michael Gambon.

Sir Ian's 1995 version of Richard III has been restored and will get a premiere at the BFI Southbank on April 28 including live chat with the actor and director Richard Longacre.

His Richard III was shot around the capital, including at the old Bankside Power Station (now the Tate Modern), Battersea Power Station, Strawberry Hill House and Eltham Palace.

Sir Ian said: "I have always thought it might be fun to take a bus tour around the sites of Richard III in London and you would watch snippets of the film sitting in the coach and then you would arrive at the location and see it in person."

It seems the actor will get his wish, with such tours planned as part of the season.

Go to bfi.org.uk/shakespeare for further information.

SOUTH LONDON PLAYLIST

ADELE

South London has a proud musical legacy and it's about time we brought it all together in one awesome playlist.

Whether it is rock gods such as the Stones, Led Zeppelin or Eric Clapton; pop icons like Kate Bush, David Bowie or Adele; or the grime or hip hop of Tinie Tempah, Stormzy or Krept and Konan, they're all in there. **Head to epsomguardian.co.uk/ vibe for the full map and playlist…**

The music speaks for itself but while you're listening here's nine cheeky 'did-you-knows'…

Kate Bush, who grew up in Welling, named her mansion in Court Road in Eltham after her biggest hit, Wuthering Heights.

Tinie Tempah, born Patrick Chukwiemeka Okogwu, went to school at St Paul's in Abbey Wood.

Keith and Mick of the Rolling Stones met at Dartford station.

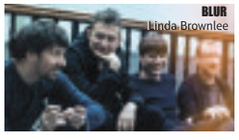
Squeeze cut their teeth in pubs around Deptford and Greenwich. Singer Glenn Tilbrook told us a couple of years ago: "It was a lovely time. The first two years together, we couldn't get any gigs at all. Jools and I used to play as a duo.

"We used to play at the Morden Arms in Greenwich. We got paid handsomely for that."

Blur's Alex James and Graham Coxon met at their first day at Goldsmiths Uni in New Cross.

Adele and Jessie J used to hang out at lunchtimes at Croydon's BRIT school, according to Jessie's book Nice to Meet You.

THE ROLLING STONES
DAVID BOWIE


BLUR
Linda Brownlee

Rock legend Jimi Hendrix reportedly lived in Hither Green in 1966.

John Lennon lived at St George's Hill in Weybridge from 1964 until 1968. Bandmates Ringo lived round the corner and George Harrison was in Esher.

One quarter of X Factor boyband JLS, JB Gill grew up in Croydon. He's traded the stage for the field – he owns a turkey farm in Biggin Hill. Customers include Alexandra Burke and former 1D member Zayn Malik.

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COMMUNITY CALLING

CORR BLIMEY: Celtic rock and pop family act The Corrs have announced a gig at Epsom Downs Racecourse following races on Thursday, June 30. Tickets for *An Evening at the Races with The Corrs* start at £20 and can be bought from: http://epsom.thejockeyclub.co.uk/

ROCK ON: The world's largest collection of Gibson Custom Shop Guitars comes to Epsom this week as part of a travelling roadshow. The Ultimate Gibson Collection Roadshow will be at Epsom Guitar Store, Church Street, between 10am and 5.30pm on Friday, January 29 and Saturday, January 30.

KICK IT: A new six-a-side football season kicks off in Epsom next month and Football Mundial are looking for new teams to sign up. 35-minute matches take place between 7pm and 10pm on Wednesday nights at Blenheim High School in Longmead Road, Epsom. For more information, visit www.footballmundial.com.

THE DEIN: The former chairman of Arsenal Football Club David Dein spoke to Banstead students on Friday, January 22. During his time at the club Arsenal won 18 major trophies. His presentation on self-discipline and positivity was addressed to Sixth Form and Year 11 students at The Beacon School.

CANCELLED: SOUTH West Trains cancelled a commuter service this week.

Dancing the way to fitness, happiness

BY BEN WEICH

NEWSQUEST.CO.UK

A 93-YEAR-OLD Epsom man has waltzed to a national award for his impressive exercise regime, proving you are never too old to get fit.

Ken Williamson, one of 40 regular dancers at Appleby House care home, was presented with an Oomph! Factor award in December.

The group takes part in classes three times a week with specially trained staff, and the exercise helps them prevent falls, maintain independence and manage dementia symptoms.

Mr Williamson said: "It takes me back to the old days.

"It rejuvenates me both of mind and spirit of my days as a youngster in the forces and civilian life with my dear wife of 66 years."

His wife, Joan said he really enjoyed the Oomph! sessions, and he seemed happier and more aware.

She said: "It makes my heart glad that Ken is happy in his surroundings."

Ken Williamson, 93, dancing with instructor Jacqueline Dye

Appleby House's residents waltz, samba and rumba at sessions designed to make exercising in old age fun again, using popular music, colourful props and story-telling routines.

Appleby House's activities co-ordinator Jacqueline Dye – who nominated Mr Williamson for the award – described him as an 'enthusiastic exercise-lover'.

She said: "Ken's so enthusiastic during the sessions and gets up to join me for a waltz. When Ken first arrived at Appleby House he used to sit in his suite and was unwilling to come out. Now he's dancing his days away, is so much happier and always smiling."

School's quizzers edge closer to Commons final

BANSTEAD Community Junior School's young quizzers blew away the competition last week, claiming the top two spots in a local heat of the National Inter-Schools Quiz Championships.

The school battled both Wray Common Primary School, from Reigate, and St John's School, from Leatherhead, for a spot in the regional semi-finals.

Key answers they came up with included the name of the mythical three-headed dog – Cerberus – and they correctly identified the Uruguayan flag.

Despite strong competition from St John's, two of BCJS' teams battled it out until the final round, when the team of Evie-Mai Cumberland, 11, Elsie Wright, nine, Matthew Sheehan, nine, and Adam Lamy, eight, prevailed.

The second-placed team was led by Rebekah Bongers, who was joined by Daniel Warhurst, 10, Bobby Andrews, nine, and Zoe Aldridge, seven.

Teacher Gemma Humphries said: "Well done to all of our pupils - they were excellent ambassadors for our school and showed their amazing level of general knowledge.

Adam, Elsie and Evie-Mai (53361611)

"Their teamwork was fantastic throughout, as was their conduct. They were so excited to have won and can't wait for the next round of the competition."

BCJS will now compete at the regional semi-finals, with another victory taking them to this year's final at the House of Commons.

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Should you buy or rent?

Whether to buy or rent a property can be one of the biggest and most significant decisions that you can make. Here in the UK we place a great emphasis on the pride of home ownership, but life is not always so simple as to make the choice an easy one, writes Anna Francis.

Hopefully this round-up will assist you in deciding whether buying or renting a property is the best option for you in 2016.

From April of this year, there will be a 3% surcharge on each stamp duty band for buy-to-let landlords and those buying second homes. It is estimated that this new charge will have gathered around an extra £1bn for the treasury in the next five years. However, the move could (and is likely to) have far reaching consequences.

The changes mean that (for example) the 2% stamp duty on a property worth between £125,000 and £250,000 will increase to 5%. With the average buy-to-let mortgage sitting at around £184,000, this increase will mean that landlords will need to come up with an extra £5,520, once the changes are implemented in April.

Not only are buy-to-let investors going to have to deal with the increase in stamp duty, but also in capital gains tax. They will get a lower rate of tax relief on their mortgage payments (due to be introduced in 2017), and also have to pay all capital gains tax within 30 days of selling a property, instead of at the end of the tax year.

You may be thinking that this doesn't affect you as the tenant – but if you expect that your landlord is just going to soak up these extra charges, then you may need to think again.

Just as government policy looks set to cause massive problems to tenants and landlords alike, other changes promise to offer a hand up for those looking to take the first tentative steps onto the property ladder.

Downing Street has announced that it will be looking to use public land to build 200,000 properties for first time buyers under the age of 40, that will be sold at below the market rate.

The government also wants to encourage local councils to give land with planning permission to people who want to build their own homes. The proposed regeneration of the railway system is also expected to contribute towards freeing up enough public land for 150,000 homes.

The council house Right to Buy scheme, introduced some years ago, allows council tenants to purchase their home from the government at a heavily discounted rate (up to 70%). The scheme shall now be extended to include those who rent from housing associations. On top of all of this, inheritance tax on properties below £1m will end.

More details at hunters.com.

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Come and take a look at this great two bedroom flat with amazing views over Sutton.
Call Haart Sutton now on 0208 0034975

YOU CAN'T TOP THIS £325,000

Brighton Road

A first floor, three double bedroom, 1930s apartment set above a commercial premises.
Call Haart of Sutton now on 020 8330 1871!

COMMUTERS PARADISE £260,000

Sutton Common Road

Calling all investors! This delightful first floor, two double bedrooms, would make the perfect buy!
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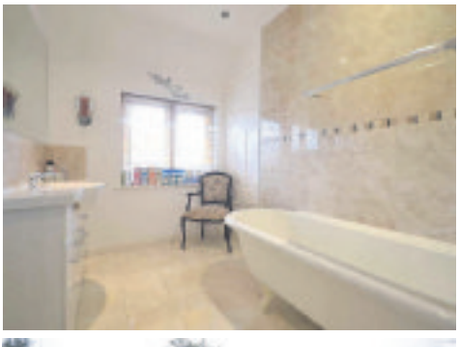

Epsom **£1,300,000**

- Desirable Location
- Refurbished Detached
- Four Bedrooms
- Approx. 28ft Reception Room
- Dining Room & Study
- Beautiful Kitchen/Diner
- Large Garden
- E.P.C. Rating C

CHASE ESTATE - This beautifully refurbished family home set within the heart of the desirable Chase Estate. The property boasts two reception rooms, study, downstairs W.C., utility room and the most amazing kitchen/diner. Upstairs offers four double bedrooms (one with en-suite and dressing room) and family bathroom. A summer house accompanies the stunning garden.

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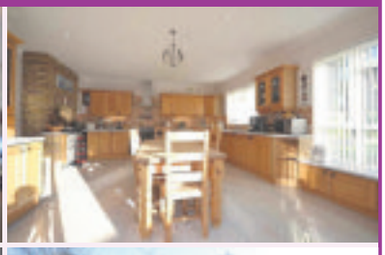
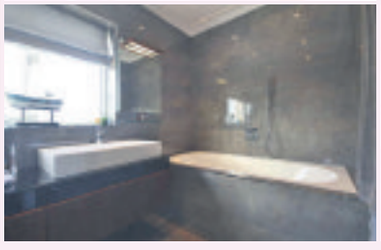
Epsom £1,000,000

SET ON A SOUGHT AFTER ROAD and on the cusp of Epsom Downs, is this stunning detached family home which is a must see. On the ground floor there is a double reception room, spacious dining room, study, W/C with storage, utility room and a sensational kitchen/diner with views overlooking the garden. The first floor offers four double bedrooms and two bathrooms (one en-suite).

- Offers In Excess Of
- Tree Lined Road
- Very Well Presented Detached
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Luxury En-Suite To Master
- Two Reception Rooms & Study
- Stunning Garden
- E.P.C. Rating T.B.C.

Ewell Village £950,000

- Modern Gated Development
- End Of Terrace Town House
- Four Bedrooms
- Two En-Suites
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen/Dining/Family Room
- Garage & Garden
- E.P.C. Rating C

Ashtead £665,000

- 1920s Extended Semi Detached
- Further Potential S.T.P.P.
- Three/Four Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen/Dining Room
- Two Garden Sections
- Ashtead Station
- E.P.C. Rating E

Epsom £775,000

- Prestigious Woodcote Estate
- Elegant Detached
- Four Bedrooms
- Bathroom & Shower Room
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Beautiful Mature Garden
- E.P.C. Rating E

Epsom £1,000,000

- Offers In Excess Of
- Prestigious Woodcote Area
- Wonderful Plot
- Substantial Detached
- Six/Seven Bedrooms
- Drawing Room
- Conservatory
- E.P.C. Rating D

Banstead £600,000

- Modern Detached
- Contemporary Decor
- Four Bedrooms
- en-Suite To Master
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Conservatory/Sun Lounge
- Family Sized Garden
- E.P.C. Rating C

Epsom £420,000

- Popular Noble Park
- First Floor Converted Apartment
- High Ceilings & Georgian Windows
- Two Double Bedrooms
- En-Suite To Master
- Open Plan Living
- Parking & Private Balcony
- E.P.C. Rating C

Epsom £349,950

- Impressive Development
- Top Floor Apartment
- Two Double Bedrooms
- En-Suite To Master
- Well Kept Communal Areas
- Allocated Parking Space
- Long Lease
- E.P.C. Rating C

Epsom £645,000

- Stunning Split Level Maisonette
- Two Bedrooms
- En Suite To Master
- Kitchen/Reception Room
- Second Reception Room
- Own Private Entrance
- Two Allocated Parking Spaces
- E.P.C. Rating C

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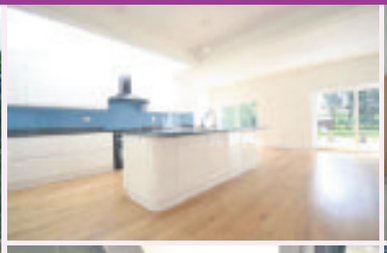
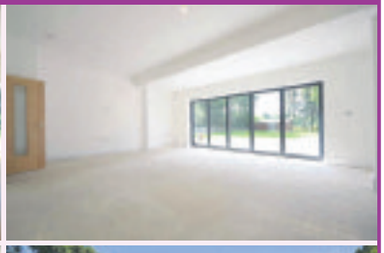
Ashtead £1,250,000

BRAND NEW AND BACKING FIELDS - Built with the modern family in mind, this house has the right layout, the good room sizes and the stylish decoration. Bonuses include an out house with covered Jacuzzi area, an additional out house to the rear, a double garage, in/out driveway and access to fields to the rear.

- Brand New Detached
- Five Bedrooms
- Two En-Suites
- Two Reception Rooms
- Stunning Kitchen/Diner
- Covered Jacuzzi Area
- Backing Fields
- E.P.C. Rating C

Epsom £900,000

- Substantial Detached
- Modern Decor Throughout
- Four Bedrooms
- Two En-Suites
- Four Reception Room
- Kitchen/Dining Room
- Generously Sized Garden
- E.P.C. Rating D

Epsom £725,000

- Prestigious Road
- 1930's Semi Detached
- Plenty Of Potential (S.T.P.P.)
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Reception Room
- Large Mature Garden
- Detached Garage
- E.P.C. Rating D

Ewell £800,000

- Offers In Excess Of
- Interior Designed Detached
- Four Bedrooms
- En-Suite & Walk-In Wardrobe
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen/Dining Room
- Secluded Garden
- E.P.C. Rating E

Epsom £525,000

- Desirable Road
- Semi Detached
- Period Features & Modern Decor
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Stunning Kitchen/Diner
- Spacious Garden
- E.P.C. Rating E

Epsom £575,000

- Extended Semi Chalet Bungalow
- Four Double Bedrooms
- En Suite To Master
- Double Reception Room
- Beautiful Kitchen/Diner
- South Facing Garden
- Views Over Downs
- E.P.C. Rating D

Epsom £675,000

- Ever So Popular Wallace Fields
- Detached Chalet Bungalow
- Plenty Of Potential (S.T.P.P.)
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- Double Garage
- E.P.C. Rating E

Epsom £575,000

- Detached Bungalow
- Potential Throughout
- Three Bedrooms
- Reception Room/Bedroom Three
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Conservatory
- Mature Secluded Garden
- E.P.C. Rating T.B.C.

Epsom £440,000

- Refurbished Terrace House
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern Kitchen
- Stunning Bathroom
- Landscaped Garden
- Off Street Parking
- E.P.C. Rating D

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Banstead
141 High Street, Banstead, Surrey, SM7 2NS
01737 333699

Epsom
2 West Street, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 7RG
01372 745850

Ewell
220 Chessington Road, West Ewell, Surrey, KT19 9XA
020 8394 1234

Stoneleigh
62 Stoneleigh Broadway, Stoneleigh, Surrey,KT17 2HS
020 8393 9411

Epsom **Guide price £1,300,000** 01372 745 850

- Occupying 0.48 of an Acre
- Four Large Double Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms, Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Approaching 2600 Sq Ft with a 113ft x 100ft rear garden
- Two Ensuite Facilities
- Impressive Reception Hall

Epsom **Guide price £815,000** 01372 745 850

- Wallace Fields location, Backing on to parkland
- Fantastic outlook to rear
- Requires modernisation with Huge scope to extend
- 61ft x 50ft Southerly garden
- Two receptions rooms Conservatory
- Kitchen/breakfast room, Utility room & d/s cloakroom

Tadworth **Guide Price £759,950** 01737 333 699

- Spacious, Flexible & Stylish, Fantastic Detached Home
- Three Double Bedrooms
- 23ft x 19ft Reception Room, Spacious Dining Room
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility Room & Lean To
- Secluded Rear Garden
- Immaculate throughout

Ewell Court **£625,000** 020 8394 1234

- In Need or Modernisation
- Potential to Extend (STPP)
- Detached Two/Three Bed Bungalow
- Two/Reception Rooms
- Bolt Corner Plot
- Backing Hogsmill Nature Reserve

Highly recommended by thebestofepsomandewell

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01737 333699

Epsom
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01372 745850

Ewell
220 Chessington Road, West Ewell, Surrey, KT19 9XA
020 8394 1234

Stoneleigh
62 Stoneleigh Broadway, Stoneleigh, Surrey,KT17 2HS
020 8393 9411

Stoneleigh **£599,950** 020 8393 9411

- Four Double Bedrooms
- Ensuite Bathroom
- Two Reception Rooms
- Spacious Kitchen
- Separate Utility Room
- Garage

Stoneleigh **£569,950** 020 8393 9411

- Three Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Kitchen / Dining Room
- Downstairs W/C
- 72ft Rear Garden
- Walk to Shops, School & Stn.

Stoneleigh **£535,000** 020 8393 9411

- Three Bed Semi Detached Home
- Two Reception Rooms
- South / West Facing Garden
- Detached Garage & Driveway
- Side Plot
- Walk to Shops, Stn. &Schools

West Ewell **OIEO £525,000** 020 8394 1234

- Four Bed Semi Detached Home
- Extended Lounge/Diner
- Extended Kitchen
- Private 70ft Rear Garden
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

Ewell **£499,950** 020 8393 9411

- Detached House
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen / Breakfast Room
- Driveway
- 70ft Garden

Epsom **Guide price £479,950** 01372 745 850

- Semi-Detached Two Bed Bungalow
- Secluded Westerly Garden
- Desirable Location
- Modern Shower Room
- Spacious Reception Room
- Potential to Extend STPP

Epsom **Guide price £450,000** 01372 745 850

- Three Bed Semi-Detached Home
- Heart of Town Centre
- Two Reception Rooms
- Useful Basement/Office
- South Facing Garden
- Residents Parking

Chessington **£350,000** 020 8394 1234

- Terrace House
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- L Shape Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- Conservatory

Epsom **£325,000** 01372 745 850

- Heart of Town Centre
- Two double bedrooms
- Large living room
- Stunning kitchen/diner
- Stone's throw from High Street
- Offered in excellent order

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McCann

Sales

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Epsom,
Surrey, KT19 8BJ

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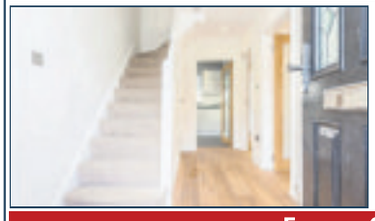
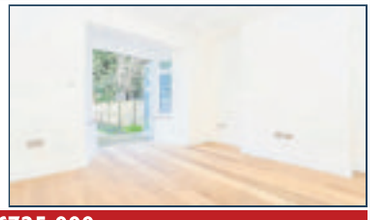
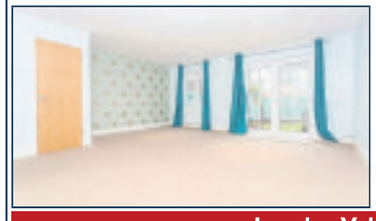
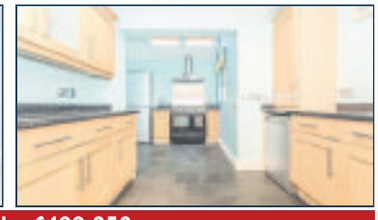




Epsom £725,000

A newly refurbished 4 bedroom family home in a well respected area of South Epsom on the Woodcote Estate. Finished to a high standard with wood flooring and solid wood doors this is a great opportunity to buy a good size family home with 2 receptions, 4 double bedrooms a bathroom and a separate shower room.





Langley Vale £499,950

A well presented, DETACHED, 3 Bedroom, 2 Reception room modern family home set in the heart of the village a short stroll from the village shops and woodland walks. Situated down a quiet cul-de-sac the house is conveniently placed between Ashtead and Epsom with Epsom downs a short distance away making this a great family home. NO ONWARD CHAIN

Epsom Town Centre £360,000

INVESTORS. A 4th floor, 3 bedroom flat currently let until 28th August 2016 at £1,500pcm producing a 5% yield. Set in this extremely popular block with Epsom station and town centre on the doorstep. The flat overlooks the rear of the block with a reception room with balcony, modern open plan kitchen, master bedroom with en suite shower, 2 further double bedrooms, family bathroom, Allocated underground parking.

Ewell £595,000

McCann Estate Agents are pleased to offer to the market a three bedroom detached bungalow, located in the heart of Ewell Village. The bungalow offers flexible living accommodation and boasts a fitted kitchen with utility room, spacious reception room, conservatory, three bedrooms and white suite bathroom. The property offers a sizeable enclosed rear garden, garage and off street parking for several vehicles. No Onward Chain.

Wells Estate. Epsom £375,000

A semi detached bungalow set at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac with huge potential to extend spp. Positioned at the heart of the Wells Estate the property currently offers a reception room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, OSP, garage and a large garden. There is potential to extend the current house further into the roof as well as a two story side extension spp.

Stamford Green, Epsom £589,950

McCann Estate Agents are pleased to offer to the market a three bedroom semi-detached family home, located in the sought after Stamford Green area of Epsom. The property offers flexible living accommodation and boasts a modern fitted kitchen, two reception rooms, three bedrooms and a stylish bathroom suite. Further benefits include a easy to maintain rear garden with patio area, garage, summer house and off street parking for two vehicles.

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Ashtead: 01372 273448

Langley Vale £725,000

A brand new detached home nestled in the ever popular village of Langley Vale finished in a contemporary style. EPC = TBC.

Ashtead £650,000

A detached bungalow with planning approved for substantial redevelopment located in a popular residential close in The Lanes area of Ashtead. EPC = E.

Ashtead £578,950

A charming semi-detached family house situated in a popular cul-de-sac in the 'lanes area' of Ashtead. EPC = D.

Ashtead POA

An exciting new development of 19 stylish contemporary apartments set on an elevated position in the heart of the sought after Village of Ashtead. EPC=TBC.

Banstead: 01737 850400

Banstead £830,000

A beautifully presented three bedroom detached chalet bungalow situated in a favoured road backing onto Cuddington Golf Club. EPC = E

Banstead £750,000

An attractive 1930's style three bedroom detached family home located in a popular tree lined road with approved planning permission for two storey extension. EPC = E

Banstead £649,950

A four bedroom detached family home offering flexible living accommodation and off road parking situated in a residential road. Vacant possession. EPC= D

Banstead £575,000

A three bedroom semi detached house with spacious living accommodation and off street parking situated in a quiet residental road in Banstead. EPC = E

Epsom: 01372 724477

Epsom £720,000

A beautifully presented 4 bedroom detached family home located on the popular Clarendon Park with landscaped gardens. EPC=C

Epsom £699,950

A 3 double bedroom, 2 reception, character semi-detached home with previous planning permission to extend to 5 bedrooms located on the Woodcote Estate. EPC=D

Epsom £545,000

An extremely well presented apartment with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large sitting room with balcony, having been recently refurbished set in a gated development. EPC=C

Epsom £515,000

A very modern three bedroom, two bathroom semi-detached property located within a short walk of local shops and Epsom Downs. Viewing Essential. EPC=C

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Epsom £950 pcm

1 bedroom unfurnished EPC=C

Walton-On-The-Hill £1,500 pcm

3 bedrooms unfurnished EPC=F

Epsom £1,595 pcm

3 bedrooms unfurnished EPC=C

Epsom £1,600 pcm

3 bedrooms part furnished EPC=F

Ashtead £2,250 pcm

4 bedrooms unfurnished EPC=D

Burgh Heath £2,950 pcm

5 bedrooms unfurnished EPC=E

Charges: a non-refundable administration fee of £180 inclusive of VAT for up to two applicants and £90.00 inclusive of VAT per additional applicant or guarantor. A deposit equal to 1.5 months' rent and inventory check out fees, both calculated per property, apply.

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Epsom **LET AGREED £2,950pcm**

MORE REQUIRED

- Large Detached House
- Five Double Bedrooms
- En-Suite To Master
- Four Receptions
- Kitchen & Sep. Utility
- Rear Garden
- Garage & O. S. P.
- E.P.C. Rating E

Epsom **LET AGREED £2,650pcm**

MORE REQUIRED

- Private Road
- Detached House
- Full Of Character
- High Ceilings & Fireplaces
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Large Reception Rooms
- Superb Garden
- E.P.C. Rating E

Epsom **LET AGREED £2,695pcm**

MORE REQUIRED

- Detached Executive House
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Three Bathrooms
- Conservatory
- High Specificaton
- Furnished/Unfurnished
- Garage
- E.P.C. Rating B

Epsom **LET AGREED £1,125pcm**

MORE REQUIRED

- Top Floor (2nd) Apartment
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Bathrooms
- Lounge With Juliet Balc.
- Allocated Parking/Cycle
- Views Over Playing Fields
- Great For Station & Town
- E.P.C. Rating C

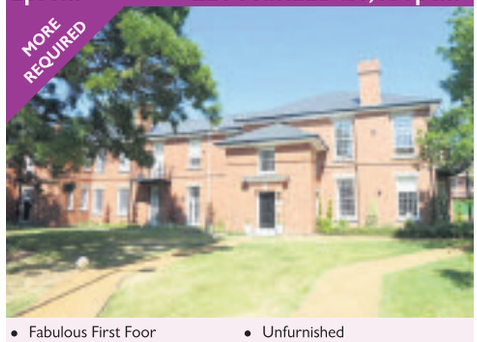
Epsom **LET AGREED £1,000pcm**

MORE REQUIRED

- Communal & Own Entrance
- Allocated Parking Space
- Oak Floors/Sash Windows
- Luxury Shower Room
- Shaker Kitchen
- Furnished
- One Double Bedroom
- E.P.C. Rating C

Epsom **LET AGREED £1,050pcm**

MORE REQUIRED



- Fabulous First Foor
- Apartment
- One Double Bedroom
- High Specification
- Unfurnished
- Two Parking Spaces
- Noble Park
- E.P.C Rating: C

Ashtead **LET AGREED £2,000pcm**

MORE REQUIRED

- Semi Detached House
- Immaculate
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Brand New Bathroom
- Kitchen/Dining Room
- Lounge
- Garden With Gardener
- E.P.C. Rating D

Epsom **LET AGREED £1,025pcm**

MORE REQUIRED

- Ground Floor Maisonette
- Brand New - Noble Park
- One Bedroom
- Integrated Appliances
- Fitted Wardrobes
- Patio Area
- Unfurnished
- E.P.C. Rating C

Epsom **LET AGREED £950pcm**

MORE REQUIRED

- Gated Development
- First Floor Apartment
- Furnished
- Double Bedroom
- Lounge & Balcony
- Allocated Parking Space
- Close To Town
- E.P.C. Rating D

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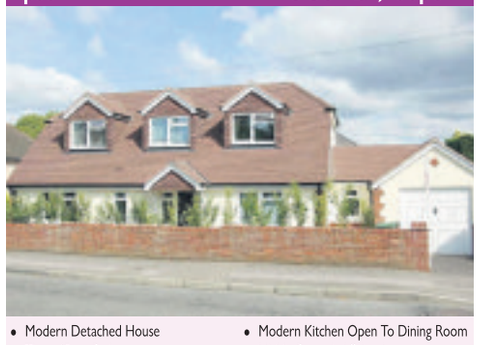
Epsom BEST IN LOCATION £4,500pcm

- Prestigious Woodcote
- Substantial Family Home
- Five Bedrooms
- Four Bathrooms
- Stunning Kitchen/Family Room
- Four Receptions
- Private Position
- E.P.C. Rating D

Epsom EXCLUSIVE STYLE £2,400pcm

- Cul De Sac Location
- Semi Detached House
- Four Double Bedrooms
- En-Suite To Master & Two Bathrooms
- 18ft Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Excellent Choice Of Schools
- Walk To Station
- E.P.C. Rating T.B.C.

EpsomFLEXIBLE FAMILY HOUSE £2,100pcm



- Modern Detached House
- Three/Four Bedrooms
- En-Suite To Master
- Lounge & Study
- Modern Kitchen Open To Dining Room
- Highly Regarded Schools
- Unfurnished
- E.P.C. Rating D

EpsomONE BEDROOM HOUSE £1,050pcm

- Available Now
- End Of Terrace House
- One Double Bedroom
- Fitted Wardrobes
- Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Great Location
- Parking Space
- E.P.C. Rating E

Epsom AVAILABLE NOW £1,500pcm

- Victorian Semi Detached
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Stunning Kitchen
- Modern Bathroom
- Landscaped Garden
- Many Original Features
- E.P.C. Rating D

EpsomSTUNNING SPLIT LEVEL £1,250pcm

- Victorian Conversion
- Split Level Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Kitchen/Diner
- Door Entry System
- Allocated Parking
- Available 1st February
- E.P.C. Rating T.B.C.

LeatherheadAVAIL. EARLY MARCH £895pcm

- Ground Floor Apartment
- One Bedroom
- Reception Room
- Security Entry-Phone System
- Unfurnished
- Allocated Parking Space
- Conveniently Located To Station
- E.P.C. Rating C

EpsomLUXURY APARTMENT £1,150pcm

- Brand New
- Top Floor Apartment
- Double Bedroom
- Luxury Bathroom
- Open Plan Living Room
- Video Door Entry System
- Town Centre Location
- E.P.C Rating C

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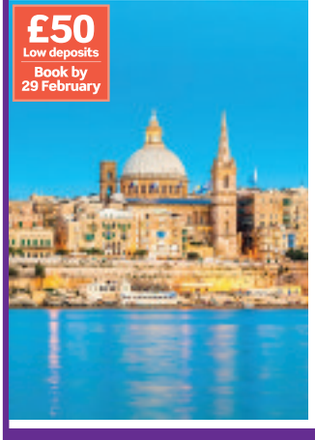

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Public Notices

Transport for London

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

The GLA Roads And GLA Side Roads (Sutton) Red Route Consolidation Traffic Order 2008 A232 GLA Road (Acre Lane) And A217 GLA Road (Reigate Avenue) Variation Order 2016

1. Transport for London hereby gives notice that on 21st January 2016 it made the above named Order, under section 6 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Order will come into force on 1st February 2016.
2. The general nature and effect of the Order will be to:
   (1) Introduce a 6.3 metre Disabled Persons' Vehicle Only Bay on the carriageway outside numbers 20 and 22 Acre Lane replacing 6.3 metres of the existing Clearway Exempt Bay;
   (2) Introduce a 6.6 metre Disabled Persons' Vehicle Only Bay on the carriageway outside numbers 38 and 40 Acre Lane replacing 6.6 metres of the existing Clearway Exempt Bay;
   (3) Introduce a 6.6 metre Disabled Persons' Vehicle Only Bay on the carriageway outside numbers 88 and 90 Reigate Avenue replacing 6.6 metres of the existing Parking and Disabled Persons Vehicle Bay.
3. The roads which would be affected by the Order are A232 Acre Lane and A217 Reigate Avenue in the London Borough of Sutton.
4. A copy of the Order, a map indicating the location and effect of the Order and copies of any Order revoked, suspended or varied by the Order can be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of:
   - Transport for London Streets Traffic Order Team (RSM/PI/STOT) Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road London, SE1 8NJ
   - Highways, Transport and Smarter Travel London Borough of Sutton 24 Denmark Road Carshalton Surrey SM5 2JG
5. Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or of any of its provisions on the grounds that they are not within the relevant powers conferred by the Act or that any requirement of the Act has not been complied with, that person may, within six weeks from the date on which the Order is made, make application for the purpose to the High Court.

Dated this 28th day of February 2016
Mufu Durowoju
Network Impact Management Team Manager
Road Space Management - Operations, Transport for London
Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ

MAYOR OF LONDON TRANSPORT FOR LONDON

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KATHLEEN CROMBIE (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Kingswood Court Warren Lodge Drive Tadworth KT20 6QN, who died on 28/02/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 01/04/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

Notice is hereby given that the following applications have been received:

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15/01410/FLH **51 Church Road, Epsom, Surrey**
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Applications may be viewed online: http://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/EEBC/Planning or alternatively by visiting Epsom Town Hall, The Parade, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5BY during office hours or in local public libraries with internet access. Should you wish to comment please use our website or email supportgrouprequests@epsom-ewell.gov.uk or write to Place Development at the above address. Please make sure that you quote the application reference number. Comments should be sent within 21 days from the date of this notice. All comments will be publicly available for inspection and will be displayed online. Please note that details of all planning applications received are available on the Council's website.

Head of Place Development
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ON THE ROAD: Jeep Renegade Night Eagle

What's new? The Renegade is a chunky little crossover with SUV looks and, at the top end of the range, the guts to back up its beefy appearance. It's yours in more efficient two-wheel or surprisingly capable four-wheel drive guises, including a Trail Rated version that adds a small fortune to the price but turns it into a tenacious little off-roader.

The Night Eagle is a special edition limited to just a few hundred units in the UK, with a handful of European markets getting small numbers as well. It gets some specification upgrades, although these haven't been fully confirmed for the UK market yet, and a semi-matt dark grey paint option that looks the business.

Looks and image: Who doesn't love a limited edition, right? Buyers will hope that extra kudos points attached to Night Eagle models will improve residual values, but don't count on dealer-sourced finance to reflect that. Still, the chance to own something much less common has got to carry some weight in the showroom. Personally I love the Renegade's style. It has signature Jeep features like the seven-section grille and the trapezoidal wheel arches, but the boxy shape around them is as classic as it is contemporary. From the high driver's seat, the bonnet bulges into view and makes the car feel both bigger and meaner than it really is.

Space and practicality: The boot is quite big thanks to the height on offer. At 351 litres you'll find more space than in a Ford Focus but less than in a Seat Leon or the Renault Captur with its seats pushed all the way back for maximum rear legroom. The Captur's boot is expandable to an amazing 455 litres, too, so there are better options for space hunters.

There's ample rear legroom, to give the Renegade its credit, but unlike the Cherokee Night Eagle, it holds onto cloth seats. The Cherokee equivalent gets leather. Practicality in the smaller car should be boosted by rear parking sensors, which aren't standard on the Longitude model upon which the Night Eagle is based.

Behind the wheel: You sit high above the road, eyeballing van drivers and surveying the kingdom of your driveway, if you have one. You're almost above the pedals compared to the driving position in lower cars, but there's plenty of space and the steering wheel doesn't clash with your knees.

Dark styling details are Night Eagle add-ons but very little is different to an ordinary Renegade.

The diesel engine is a bit noisy here, but it's strong at low revs, punting the little Jeep up the road easily. It could be taller-geared for lower cruising revs, but the other side of the coin is that down-shifts are rarely needed for motorway overtakes. The ride strikes an average for the sector, between comfort and sportiness.

Value for money: It's true there's not that much going on to tempt too much extra money out of buyers, but technological additions do add a bit of value. The choice could turn out to be a coin-toss between this and a standard but higher-spec Renegade. There are many people out there, though, that just want that extra exclusivity, and the Night Eagle hits the spot.

FACTS AT A GLANCE

Jeep Renegade Night Eagle, price TBC (circa £20,000)

Engine: 2.0-litre turbodiesel producing 138bhp and 258lb/ft
Transmission: Six-speed manual driving all four wheels
Performance: Top speed 113mph, 0-62mph in 10.2 seconds
Economy: 61.4mpg combined **Emissions:** 134g/km

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Epsom Guardian

It's down to the Borthwick factor

FORMER St John's School pupil George Kruis says working alongside England rugby forwards coach Steve Borthwick has propelled him onto the international scene.

Kruis, who has 10 England caps, was selected for Six Nations duty by head coach Eddie Jones. The second row star has helped take Saracens to the top of the Aviva Premiership, and it is while playing with Borthwick that Kruis made big strides.

"Steve was a player at Saracens and now he is a coach at England," said the 25-year-old. "That is very much the relationship. He was a mentor for me. When you play for five years alongside a player like that you learn a few things."

The RBS Six Nations kicks off on February 6 when England face Scotland at Murrayfield.

Long time ago: Before last Saturday, the Salts' previous league game was at the end of December, at Horley Picture: Gemma Jarman

Salts hurt by break

EPSOM & Ewell finally returned to action in the Combined Counties League last weekend, although boss Glyn Mandeville may be wishing they had not, *writes Tim Ashton*.

After almost a month out, with only a 3-0 League Cup defeat to Ashford Town to show for their efforts, the Salts went down 2-1 at Windsor.

Savvas Panayiotou had given the Salts a first-half lead before the hosts fought back after the break, and there was also more disappointment when Carl Downs limped off with a hamstring injury.

It was only the Salts' second defeat in the chase for the Premier Division title, and it leaves them in third place, 10 points off Hartley Wintney at the top.

Mandeville's men were due to face AFC Hayes on Tuesday night before the rain came, and they were also due to host Hartley on Saturday, but that has also been postponed due to the visitor's involvement in the FA Vase.

The boss said: "The weather break has killed any momentum we had. Before Christmas we were flying in the league and looking forward to the League Cup game.

"Then we had a weather break meaning we did not play for two weeks before the cup game, where we just did not turn up and got beaten.

"We needed to keep the momentum going, but the break killed it. Now it will be next Tuesday before we play again."

The Salts' chase for the title may be fading fast, but the boss is not giving up hope just yet.

Mandeville explained: "It looks like it is Hartley's title, but we still have to play them at home, and we have to play Camberley Town [in second] twice."

FOOTBALL: Leatherhead boss delighted with reaction to first defeat

All about the response

REPORTER
TIM ASHTON
tim.ashton@
london.newsquest.co.uk

LAST weekend was all about the response, and Leatherhead boss Mike Sandmann got just the response he was looking for.

The Tanners lost for the first time under Sandmann's reign two weekends ago, but bounced back immediately thanks to Saturday's 3-2 win over play-off chasing Leiston at Fetcham Grove.

It lifted the Tanners to 12th in the Ryman Premier League table, and means they have lost just once in eight outings under Sandmann.

However, it is also the first time they have conceded more than one goal in a game, and the boss wants the correct response to that disappointment when they go to Hendon on Saturday.

"Losing at Needham Market was disappointing because we felt we could have won it," he said.

"We've had a great start but we always knew we would lose a game, but the most important thing is what we spoke about after the game: how do we respond?

"We were 3-0 up against Leiston at half-time and it was certainly the response we wanted, if not more so. It was possibly our best performance – the best since I have taken over."

He added: "We did not start second half as well as we should have and they looked like they might score, but once they did, we responded in the right way again, got back on top and created the better chances, but they scored with the last kick of the game.

"It takes a little bit of the gloss off as it is the first time we've conceded two goals, so we're naturally disappointed. But our performance in the first half was excellent. Our shape and balance was what we've been looking for."

Sandmann takes a fully fit squad to Hendon.

Goal-man: Kieran Hughes-Mason bagged his ninth league goal of the season in the 3-2 win over Leiston, while Frannie Collin got on the scoresheet twice

Sutton & Epsom continue to reach for the summit

Reaching for the top: Kyren Ghumra gets over in Sutton & Epsom's win over Havant on Saturday **Picture: Dave Jackson**

SUTTON & Epsom returned to winning ways on Saturday to maintain their lofty position at the top of London Division One South, *writes Tim Ashton*.

A 27-12 victory over Havant ensured the title destination remains in Sutton's hands – however, their failure to pick up a try bonus point saw their lead cut to four points by Guildford.

Aaron Phillip, Kyren Ghumra and Matt Whitaker went over, and Sam Hurley kicked the extras.

The January schedule culminates with Sutton visiting Tottonians on Saturday.

SPORTS*brief*

HOCKEY: Epsom have cut the gap between themselves in third and Basingstoke in second to four points after a 7-1 mauling of Reigate Priory. A James Midmer hat-trick, plus goals from Alex Pizzey (two), Ben Hildrey and Steve Turnbull mean their fight to reach the top two in the South Hockey League Hant/Surrey Division One table is not over yet. They go to struggling Havant 2s this weekend. Elsewhere, in Premier Division Two, Purley Walcountians gave themselves some breathing room above the relegation places after goals from Greg Gilson (two) and Graham Lester saw off Marlow 3-1. It could be even better after this weekend as they travel to bottom club Eastbourne.

SWIMMING: There were medals galore for the hosts at the Epsom District Swimming Club annual gala last week. They were joined at the Rainbow Centre by Wandsworth, Sutton & Cheam, Barnes, Leatherhead, Croydon Amphibians, South Croydon and Guildford & Woking swimming clubs, and 16 Epsom stars won gold. They were: Kayleigh Andrews, Lauren Barras, Daisy Bowes, Hana Cockar, Edward Dimayuga, Leila Flower, Spencer Gall, Adam Hinde, Charlie Hinde, Iwan Jones, Eliya Keane, Louis Jeffcott, Katie Lyons, Alice-May Partridge, Bella Vaughan and Isabelle Smith.

RUGBY UNION: Old Walcountians' promotion hopes suffered a setback as they were overcome at promotion rivals Old Amplefordians 25-10. Joe Henderson bagged the Counts only try of the day, and Ross Norton kicked the extras, leaving them fourth in the table, nine points off the top. Walcountians take on bottom side Croydon at Clock House this weekend, kicking off at 2pm.

FOOTBALL: A new six-a-side football season, to be held at Blenheim High School, Epsom, starts next month. It will take place on Wednesday nights from 7pm, and it is open to teams of all standards. For more information go to footballmundial.com.

NETBALL: Epsom-based outfit The Downs are doing their best to keep the pressure on the top two of Premier League One thanks to a 44-41 win over second-placed Oldham last weekend. It leaves The Downs, in third, six points off the leaders Academy and five points behind Oldham. They go to the winless Hucclecote of Chelmsford on Sunday.

For the latest sporting news, check out our YLG Sport facebook page

Ashtead Balti

Contemporary Indian Cuisine

DOUBLE CURRY AWARD WINNER!

Our readers have voted Ashtead Balti as their favourite restaurant for the second year in succession. We find out why it is the area's top curry house.

Treating customers like relatives is the key to running a successful restaurant. That's according to Mo Ali owner of the Ashtead Balti.

He should know because his restaurant has been named Epsom's best curry house for the second year running.

The restaurant scooped top prize last year in the Epsom Guardian's Epsom Curry Awards. And this year our readers once again voted it their favourite.

Mo and his team are ecstatic at having won the award two years in succession against stiff opposition. It proves, he says, the restaurant must be doing something right.

Mo learnt the business watching his family at work. Her started work when he was just 16 at the restaurant, which was launched by his dad in 1989. Mo took it over in 2005.

"As my dad says customers are like family so eating at Ashtead Balti is like going to a relative's house. We want you to come to our restaurant like a guest, enjoy our hospitality, enjoy our food and then look forward to seeing us again.

"Our dishes are all different in their own ways. The taste, flavour and freshness is different for each one," he adds.

He says the signature dish at Ashtead Balti is the Ashtead's special mossalla, which has pieces of chicken breast in spices with minced lamb and a boiled egg. Mo says the dish is a perfect example of the curry house's fusion approach to Indian food.

"Our food has lots of fusion. It stands out from the rest because we keep it as traditional as possible and then add a contemporary mix of different spices that you wouldn't normally find in Indian dishes," he says.

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